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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you concerned about the financial crisis affecting the United States?

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15 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Expanded Bailout

The Bush administration plans to spend an initial $250 billion of the $700 billion bailout buying stock in private banks

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Lawsuit Over Tainted Milk

Heartbroken at the sudden death of their baby boy, the Yi family struggled to forget what they thought was a tragic twist of fate.

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Japanese media back despite Miura's death. **PAGE 2**

After Wall Street Tumble, Retirement Fund says 'hang on.' **PAGE 3**

Cing suspends campaign amid allegations vs brother

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former senator David Cing has suspended his campaign for congressional delegate following allegations of conflict of interest against his brother.

Cing last night skipped a forum initiated by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for the candidates for delegate. Cing said he "cannot face the people" until his

See CING on Page 4

HALF PRICE SCRAP NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Basula Produkto president Eric Cruz, left, and an employee explain how scrap metal is stored in container vans for export to China. Due to the ongoing financial crisis, the price of scrap metal has been slashed by half. ***See story on Page 4***

ELECTION PRIMER

Who, what, where when of historic delegate polls

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's note: The following is part of a series of articles the Saipan Tribune *will be publishing as part of efforts to educate voters about the historic delegate election on Nov. 4.*

On Nov. 4, Northern Marianas voters will pick the Commonwealth's first ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Nine candidates who come from diverse backgrounds have joined the race.

See WHO on Page 4

CUC has $504,000 to pay Aggreko

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Executive Director Antonio Muna said yesterday they have $504,000 to pay Aggreko International for this month's billing.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune,* Muna said the due date for payment was last Friday, however, CUC has not yet received the billing from Aggreko.

Muna

He said he just needs clarification for the amount and then pay Aggreko.

"I want to make sure we are

See CUC on Page 4

Bill to remove $250M *price tag on* CUC *introduced*

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has penned legislation that would remove the $250-million price tag set by a just-passed law for the sale of the Commonwealth's power system.

Reyes

The bill says the widely criticized artificial price floor should be removed "for the protection of the people."

"Any purchaser would, naturally, have to recoup this investment and would, necessarily, have to dramatically increase the rates charged to

See BILL on Page 4

Local

Japanese media back despite Miura's death

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japanese media thought that their coverage of the Kazuyoshi Miura case on Saipan which lasted nearly eight months was over when the Japanese businessman was finally flown to California early morning Friday.

Attorney Bruce Berline, one of Miura's three counsels on the island, called his press briefing with the Japanese media last Sept. 29 a "farewell press conference" shortly after he informed the federal court that their client withdrew his petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

Both the Japanese media and Berline couldn't believe they were facing each other once again across the table last Sunday for another press conference, this time over Miura's apparent suicide.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Crew members of the Tokyo Broadcasting System Inc. install their camera in front of the Department of Corrections in Susupe yesterday. Japanese media personnel are back on the island to get reactions over the reported suicide of Kazuyoshi Miura.

Members of the Japanese media are back on the island to get reactions over Miura's death in his detention cell less than 24 hours after he was escorted to Los Angeles.

Except for one reporter from Tokyo Broadcasting System Inc., most of the Japanese media personnel had either boarded the same plane that carried Miura to L.A. Friday or flew back Saturday to their respective assignments in Tokyo, Malaysia, Manila, and Hong Kong.

But when news broke out about Miura's death Saturday night, Japanese media companies directed their staff to go back to Saipan to get reactions from assistant attorney general Jefferey Warfield Sr., lawyers Berline, Mark Hanson, William Fitzgerald, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Some media companies, however, decided to send new faces to the island because the previous staff were so tired of the coverage they did when Miura was taken Friday early morning from the Department of Corrections and brought to the Saipan airport.

A Japanese reporter from Tokyo Broadcasting System Inc. told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he was supposed to come back to Tokyo on Sunday, Oct. 12, but his company instructed him to remain on the island because of what happened in L.A.

The reporter said he has no idea until when his company wants him to stay on the island.

TBS crew members were seen yesterday afternoon filming a report in front of DOC.

Another TBS reporter, Anna Cerezo, who covered the extradition, said she and other Japanese media were still exiting the Manila airport when they received calls about Miura's death.

"We were shocked. We thought our companies would sent us back again to Saipan," Cerezo told *Saipan Tribune*.

During the press conference inside Berline's office last Sunday, Japanese media present were from Kyodo News, TV Asahi, Fuji TV, TBS, and Nippon TV.

Yesterday morning, a Kyodo News reporter was seen interviewing chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch about Miura's death. The reporter is set to leave the island today.

As to when the Japanese media would come back or when would Berline hold another press conference, no one can tell for sure.

"Remember, the Miura saga has been in the news since 1981 when the fatal shooting of his wife happened in L.A. I was still a small boy then," one Japanese journalist said.

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After Wall Street tumble, Fund says 'hang on'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

After America's stock markets hit their lowest level in five years last week, officials with the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund are saying their investors should "hang on" through the turmoil in spite of news from a leading investment firm Tuesday that the nation is likely facing a long-running recession.

In a presentation to the CNMI legislature, Merrill Lynch consultant Kenan Knieriem yesterday said America's "spiraling" housing market, coupled with—among other factors—rising rates of credit card and commercial debt, are contributing to the nation's economic downturn. Investors, he added, might be in for a "long and deep recession" that, according to some estimates, could span from at least 10 months to up to two years.

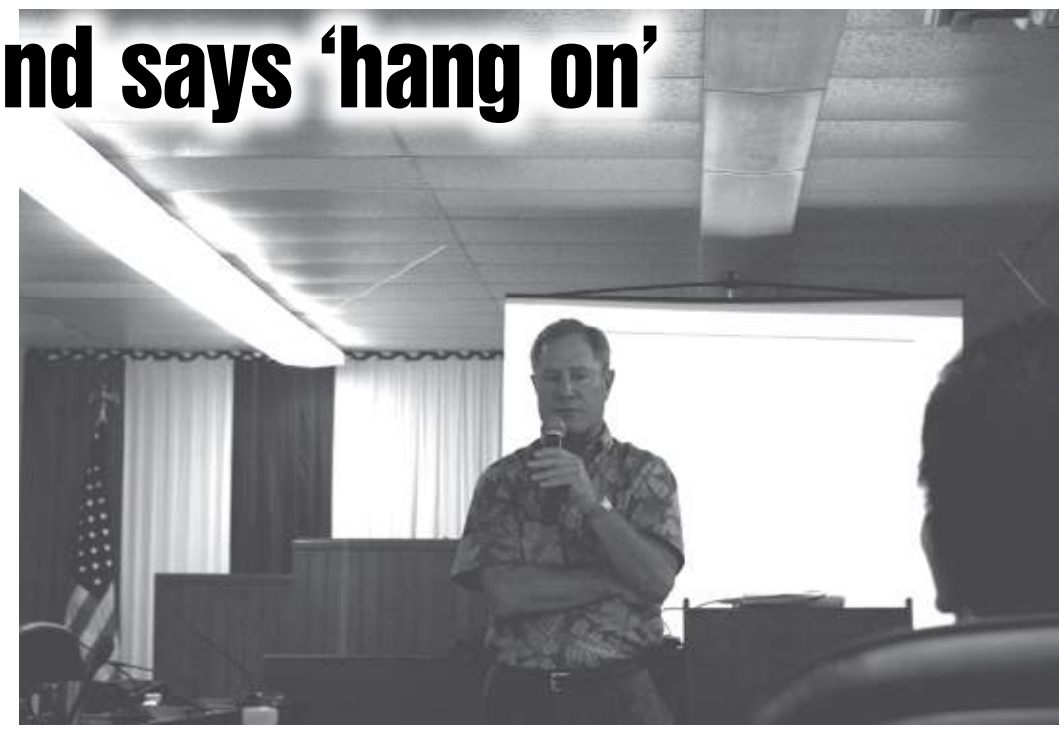
A key Retirement Fund official last week acknowledged that the stock investments the fund's managers have made stand to take a hit from Wall Street's recent decline, but the fund will likely see fewer losses than the market due to the its policy of selecting a diverse array of investments. Knieriem, in his presentation, appeared to back that stance, saying that the fund can ride out the recent turbulence on Wall Street.

RELATED NEWS
Fund seeks over the cap salary for director.
PAGE 4

"This portfolio has been through the crash of '87, the S&L crisis in the early '90s, the bear market in bonds in '94 when the feds had crushed the bond market, the '97 Asian bank failures, the Russian default in '98 and long term capital, the tech bubble and the last recession… and this fund is going to make it through this," he said. "We're going to make it through this but we have to be disciplined to the investment policies we've set up."

Retirement fund board chairman Juan Guerrero advised the fund's investors to take a con-

See AFTER on Next Page



STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Kenan Knieriem, a consultant for Merrill Lynch, gives CNMI House and Senate lawmakers a run-down on the state of the American economy and how it could impact the NMI Retirement Fund.

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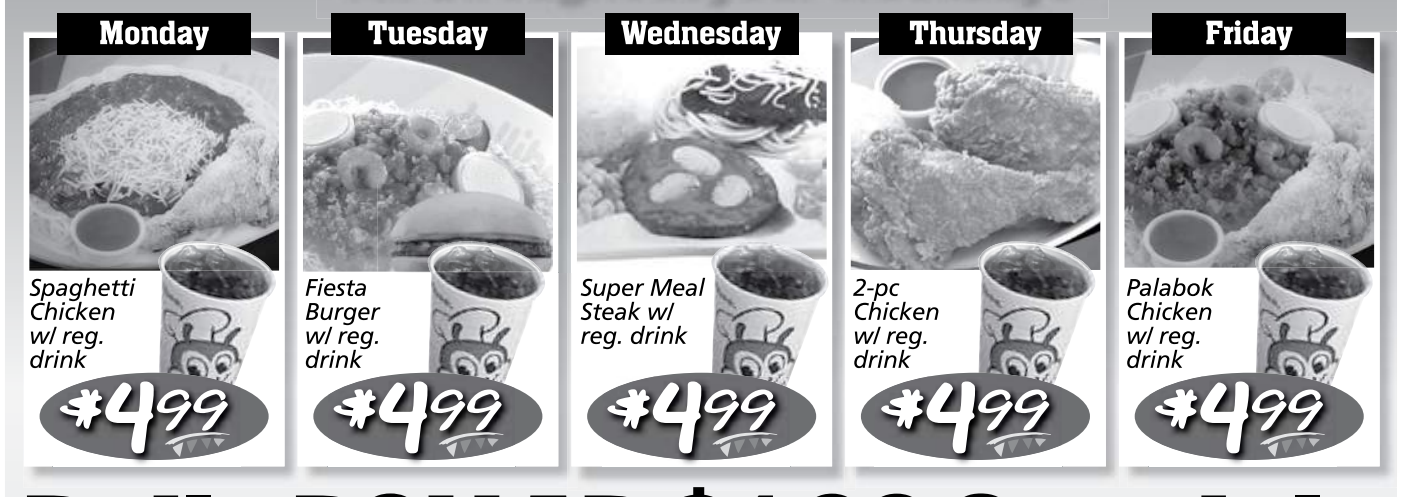

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Financial crisis slashes scrap prices by half

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the current worldwide financial crisis, a local recycling company reduced in half the price of scrap materials it pays to customers.

Basula Produkto, recycler of cardboard, white paper, aluminum glass and plastics, said the value of scrap materials for recycling has gone down.

Beginning tomorrow, Oct. 16, the buying prices would be slashed from 7 cents per kilo to 3.50 cents a kilo or even zero.

The company, which is a joint venture between Erricco and Maeda, said this would only be temporary until the market stabilizes.

Basula Produkto president Eric Cruz said he hopes this will not discourage sellers.

"We trust for your understanding. We will continue to receive scrap materials with a reduced rate but this is just for the meantime. We don't know how long the financial problem would last," Cruz said as he showed compacted metals in container vans that are ready for export to Asian countries.

The company sells about 85 percent of the scrap materials to mainland China.

Cruz explained that recycling is a critical business in a small island like Saipan because if his company stops operating, then there would be mountains and mountains of scrap materials not only in their compound but around the CNMI.

The company can compress around 30,000 tons of scrap materials using metal and aluminum compactors. The scrap materials could then be stored into container vans for export.

"We're selling our end products 100 percent to Asian markets," Cruz said.

The company had been operating the past 30 years.

"What we are experiencing when we were just starting this business, we are experiencing it now," Cruz said.

He said during that time scrap metals were not saleable items and there was no available market.

Cruz said he believes that the current financial crisis started since the Beijing Olympics.

Fund seeks over the cap salary for director

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has allowed the NMI Retirement Fund to pay its most senior employee more than the government salary cap.

Mario Taitano, the only remaining employee who has worked at the pension agency since its inception in 1980, will be paid $13,000 for his last three months at work. On an annual basis, this pay rate amounts to $54,000, exceeding the government's salary ceiling of $50,000 a year.

Taitano serves as member services director for the Fund. His previous contract allowed him to receive $54,000 a year because it had been signed before the law barred government agencies from paying more than $50,000 to non-licensed professionals.

His contract expired in September 2008. Under the law, his new contract should be comply with the salary restriction. But according to Fund board chairman Juan T. Guerrero, Taitano should be exempted from the cap because of his invaluable knowledge and expertise.

Guerrero also noted that Taitano could have retired when his contract expired in September. However, Taitano wants to work an additional 90 days to help the Fund automate its benefits system. The new software is expected to be completed in December 2008.

"As the Fund's most senior employee, Mr. Taitano possesses institutional knowledge about the history of the Fund; the applicable laws affecting the Fund; and the legislative intent of those laws that make his continued employment at the Fund critical in automating the Fund's benefits system," he said.

"Mr. Taitano may not hold the necessary certification to exceed the salary cap of [Public Law] 15-31, however, his institutional knowledge, expertise, and experience will ensure the software is properly formatted to ensure all Fund members' benefits are computed accurately," he added. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

WHO

From Page 1

The nine are Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C. for the past seven years, incumbent senator Luis Crisostimo, former Election Commission executive director Gregorio C. Sablan, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, former senator David Cing, Saipan municipal councilor Felipe Atalig, local television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, high school teacher John Davis, and businessman Chong Won.

Of the candidates, only Tenorio, a Republican, has strong ties with a national political party. Cing represents the Northern Marianas Democratic Party, which has yet to get official recognition from its national counterpart. Crisostimo claims to be a member of the national Democratic Party, but is running as an independent after the local Democrats declined to endorse him. All of the other candidates are running as independents.

With three weeks to go before the election, concerns are already being raised that the crowded race is unlikely to result in the winning candidate securing a clear voter mandate—a prospect that could leave him open to greater public scrutiny than someone elected by a majority vote might be subjected to.

"It's not necessarily bad, it's just reality," Rep. Tina Sablan said of the winning candidate's likely lack of mandate. "But it will be a challenge for the CNMI's first delegate. For example, the delegate's critics are likely to continually remind people of the fact that 'only 15 percent' of the voters—or whatever it turns out to be—actually supported him."

But Representative Sablan also said that a lack of mandate is not insurmountable. "Much will depend on his performance during the term of course, but my feeling is that if it is less than stellar, then the incumbent delegate might be dealing with formidable challenges in 2011," she said.

Although historic, the Commonwealth's first federal election has not attracted much interest in terms of voter registration. Less than 13,000 voters have registered to participate, barely one-fourth of the Commonwealth's estimated population and a 15-percent drop from the voter registration for last year's midterm election.

Gregorio Sablan, a candidate and a former chief of the Commonwealth Election Commission, noted that the small number of voters is typical of elections for one position only. Such elections do not attract as much as interest as, for instance, a gubernatorial election, where many government jobs are on the line.

The Northern Marianas is the last U.S. jurisdiction to get congressional representation. The law, which in May 2008 granted the Commonwealth the delegate seat, also allowed Washington to take over labor and immigration controls in the Commonwealth.

Under the measure, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

The CNMI delegate will receive the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a member of the House of Representatives. Each member of Congress is paid almost $170,000 a year.

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

The CNMI delegate will assume office on the third day of January after the election.

AFTER

From Page 2

servative approach to the stock market's downturn.

"The only thing I can tell them is to just hang on and not to react negatively," he said.

When Guerrero addressed lawmakers after the presentation, he gave an impassioned plea for the government to provide the fund with more money in order to cover the payments it makes to retirees and maintain its operations, noting that the fund's assets have already dropped by 22 percent during the current fiscal year. The money that the Legislature has allocated to the fund, he added, is barely enough to cover its annual expenses.

"We need the government to pay their obligation," he said. "We need you to look within your resources."

After the session, Rep. Joseph Guerrero (R-Saipan) said lawmakers are now in early talks on ways to meet the retirement fund's needs, such as a potential deal to give it additional funding.

"What we didn't know was what the actual losses were, so now it's more important that the administration and the Legislature really make the fund more of a priority than we are right now," he said. "We are certainly looking at other ways of funding the Retirement Fund. I'm not at liberty to discuss them right now until we can get a consensus but, just so everyone knows, we are looking at other options."

BILL

From Page 1

customers to recover the cost. The Legislature finds that maintaining this artificial floor will greatly harm ratepayers and the economy of the CNMI," the bill states.

The bill has been pre-filed, and has not been introduced on the Senate floor. Sen. Paul A. Manglona, chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication, vows not to allow the bill to pass without allowing the public to comment. He says a public hearing will be held on the measure.

Antonio Muna, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., is looking to talk with the Legislature about amending the new power privatization law, which was enacted over the governor's objections.

Muna's concerns include the $250-million price tag, as well as the methodology by which the legislation requires the privatization to be done. Under the bill, CUC must privatize its power system through a bidding process, as opposed to a "request for proposals". Muna suggests that a straight bidding, where the focus is getting the lowest price, may not result in CUC getting the most qualified company to operate the power system.

Proponents of the measure maintain that the legislation is urgently needed to avert an emergency declaration by the governor that would result in another sole source privatization contract. They also tout the prohibition of "requests for proposals" in the procurement process as one of the law's strengths. They note that a bidding process will prevent protests that hampered previous privatization efforts.

CING

From Page 1

family's name has been cleared.

The Taotao Tano citizen group has alleged that Cing's brother, Raynaldo Cing, improperly received a 1.5-hectare agricultural homestead lot with the help of Raynaldo's brother in law, Public Lands Secretary John S. DelRosario. The accusation arose after a recent Senate public hearing on public land issues.

In an interview yesterday, Cing said the accusation, although aimed at his brother, extends to him and the rest of his family. "We are the only Cings here, so any allegation against any member of our family hurts us all," he said.

He added that he will not conduct any political activities until the Senate completes an investigation.

"It's useless for me to be telling the people of the Commonwealth how I think our problems should be fixed, if I have a problem in my own home. So I am demanding the Senate to get to the bottom of this as soon as possible," said Cing, who is one of the nine candidates running to become the Commonwealth's first ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. The election is on Nov. 4, 2008.

"If people are found guilty of committing any wrongdoing, they should be punished. But if they didn't do anything wrong, we should do something fast so my name also can be cleared," he added.

Taotao Tano claims to have documents showing that the former board of directors of the now defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority had approved a quitclaim deed for a one-hectare homestead lot for Raynaldo. The MPLA board never adopted the minutes of the meeting, where this action was taken.

On March 8, 2007, DPL Secretary John S. DelRosario allegedly approved a short conveyance claim for an additional 1.5 hectares of homestead lot. Raynaldo was granted the additional land even though the certificate of compliance issued him in 1998 stated that only one hectare should be issued a quitclaim deed.

The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, led by Sen. Jude Hofschneider, is expected to conduct a follow up hearing on DPL matters this week.

CUC

From Page 1

all on the same page. We will schedule them for payment as well as all other IPPs (Independent Power Producers)," the executive director said.

Muna said the available money comes from CUC's collection from customers—be it individuals, commercials, and government agencies.

He said he has to e-mail Aggreko to check if they already sent out the billing to CUC.

"On the contract it states we supposed to pay at a certain period prior to the month. So we would expect the billing from them sometime last week. But there's so much going on I didn't get a chance… I just called the accounts payable folks, they haven't received it yet," Muna said.

The $504,000 would be CUC's second payment after the utility agency made the $1.5 million down payment.

Muna said he wants to get clear understanding with respect to the amount to be paid considering that when Aggreko started they only produced the minimal amount of kilowatt-hour of power supply.

He said the $1.5 million covers the first month and the last two months so it is really a three-month payment situation.

Every four weeks, Muna said, CUC will pay Aggreko $504,000.

The CUC official said Aggreko appears to be performing as what they have expected as far as hooking up to the electrical grid and the stability of the generator units.

" I think not only from the standpoint of power production. I think everyone's realized maybe some of the appliance issues, how things were burning out, and the like that now with the stability of production we're not having as many problems in that regard as we did before," Muna said.

CUC hired Aggreko to provide up to 15 megawatts of emergency power to Saipan. The monthly rate will cost $336,000 or $504,000, depending on whether CUC avails of 10 megawatt or 15 megawatt of electrical power.

Last month, the Aggreko generators were completely installed and turned on. As a result, the island has not experienced rotating outages anymore.

House urges NMC not to transfer KRNM license to off-island station

The House of Representatives has called on Northern Marianas College not to transfer KRNM's public broadcasting license to any off island radio station.

In a recently adopted resolution, the House members say NMC, instead of selling the radio station, should consider shutting it down until the college finds the money to run it.

The lawmakers also say they are "eager" to talk with NMC about the future of KRNM, including possibly identifying funds necessary to operate the radio station.

The NMC board of regents recently voted to assign KRNM's non-commercial broadcast licenses to Marianas Educational Media Services, a non-profit and educational organization in Guam. The license transfer is now awaiting approval by the Federal Communications Commission.

For 10 years, NMC has provided space for the radio station, paid the cost of utilities and staff, and provided other related services. But because of funding problems, NMC stopped hosting KRNM. The station initiated numerous fundraising efforts to keep KRNM on the air, but it did not get enough support from the government and the community.

Lawmakers, in their resolution, underscored the importance of keeping KRNM as a locally operated public radio station. According to the resolution, KRNM provides the community with programming that cannot be heard through any other media outlet in the CNMI. The public radio station also serves as a training facility for students and residents who volunteer to locally produce and host programs. Further, it offers informative and emergency announcements that benefit the community.

The resolution also notes that the CNMI has invested over $5 million in KRNM over the past 10 years, and that investment would be "lost forever" if NMC transfers the broadcasting license outside the Commonwealth.

"If the Northern Marianas College transfers the radio station license outside the CNMI, people of the CNMI will be left without a public radio station to broadcast community information, programs, features and specials," the resolution states. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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Men's Walk, Candlelight Vigil on Oct. 31

The Family Violence Task Force and its community partners are inviting all men and their family members to join the "Halloween Men's Walk" and "Candlelight Vigil."

The event will be held Oct. 31, Friday, 5:30pm, starting at the Garapan Fishing Base. Participants are urged to be at the site by 5pm. There will be free T-shirts to the first 100 marchers.

For more information, contact the Ayuda Network (322-7469); or Lugat Pas (662-4583). ***(PR)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public School System has applied for assistance under 49 CFR Section 605 and the PSS certifies in accordance with Section 605.17 that there are no private school bus operators operating in the CNMI. The Public School System will use funds provided through Part 605 to support transportation projects to the students attending our system of schools.

Approved By: (s) Rita A. Sablan
Commissioner of Education
Date: October 9, 2008

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MISSION

My Mission and Commitment to the People of the CNMI:

I will move our Commonwealth forward with the freshest ideas, renewed energy, and dedicated commitment needed to (I) reinstate our good relationship with the United States, (2) include Chamorros and Carolinians as distinct Native Americans equal to Native American Indians and Native American Hawaiians in terms of protection, respect and enhancement of indigenous culture and traditions, (3) rejuvenate our economy, (4) advance quality and affordable health care, (5) support our men and women in uniform (soldiers, police officers, etc.) to ensure our safety, (6) improve the quality of education, and (7) mandate on cleaning up the environment.

Goals & Objectives

* **Economic Revitalization:** Introduce and seek Congressional approval for an economic growth revitalization initiatives for the CNMI.
* **CIP Funds:** Immediately remove CIP matching requirement to allow CNMI to purchase new generators from existing unmatched CIP funds
* **Inclusion of CNMI in US Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) of 1990:** $100,000 for individual patient with Cancer, Thyroid, Leukemia and other illnesses.
* **Healthcare:** Increase Federal Medicaid funding and remove local matching requirement so that more indigenous CNMI residents have access to adequate health care.
* **Medical Referrals:** Work to secure revisions to Medicare rules to provide CNMI residents with coverage for emergency medically referred care at accredited facilities in the Philippines.
* **Quality Medical Care:** Granting of Special Rural designation so that the CNMI can avail of cheaper quality drugs and medical services from countries offering comparable quality for less money.
* **Reduce Health Disparities:** Secure congressional support to have the CNMI citizens included in the Health Equity and Accountability Act (H.R 3014) which addresses linguistic and culture barriers by requiring federal health agencies to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.
* **Compact-Impact Assistance:** Increase and make mandatory federal compact assistance for the CNMI.
* **Expanding Opportunities for CNMI Small Businesses:** Introduce Legislation adding all of the CNMI to the U.S. Small Business Administrator's Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUB Zone Program), giving qualified CNMI small businesses preferences in federal contracting.
* **Environmental Contamination Cleanup:** Increase funding to survey and cleanup contaminated areas.
* **Promote Chamorro and Carolinian Culture:** Secure congressionally directed funding for the Chamorro and Carolinian arts and humanities.
* **Chamorro and Carolinian Bilingual Bi-cultural Program:** Seek re-authorization of congressional funding for the Chamorro and Carolinian Bilingual Bi-cultural Education instruction programs.
* **US Postal and State and Zip Code Identity:** Mandatory inclusion of MP and 670 and 96950 in all business database across the United States
* **Workforce Investment, Development, Growth and Retention:** Increase funding and eligibility of technical and post secondary training with necessary changes that ensures training and permanent employment of our youths.
* **Military Build-Up:** Work with congress to include Tinian in the military build-up activities.
* **Extension of Submerged Land Ownership:** Work with US Congress to recognize and respect the ownership of submerged lands by CNMI descent inclusive of all minerals and marketable resources. .
* **War Reparation:** Revisit the War Reparation Statute to ascertain completeness and fairness of compensation to individuals and families of war victims.
* Work with the U.S. Congress and state universities to secure local state tuition privileges for our student in availing of state post secondary education in any of the Union.
* **Rota Seaport Modernization:** Work with Congress to establish funding for more affordable and permanent seaport by rehabilitating the old Japanese seaport at Ilig.
* **Cultural Urbanization of Songsong Village-Rota:** Convince members of Congress for funding to culturalized Songsong into a cultural village with its unique characteristics being the prominence display.
* **Sustainable Tourism Initiative/Eco-Tourism:** The local government has designated Rota as an ideal island for Eco-tourism and will press for congressional financial assistance to truly implement the Real-Deal for tourists destination.
* **Human Development Occupational Institute:** In conjunction with CNMI college and its Board of Regents will seek federal assistance to support the establishment of Human Development Occupational Institute using the Rota college campus.
* **Youth Action Funds:** Established Congressional earmarks to support this program which aims to identify, inspire and support dedicated young people who can mobilize their peers to promote strong ideals.

9. Atalig Felipe Norita Quitugua

NMC eyes partnership with Kaiping City

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, center, is flanked by Kaiping City officials Dawai Tang, Helen He, Tan Wen Han, and Tan Si Yuan during a visit to her office last Oct. 10.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials from Kaiping City, China have expressed strong interest in sending some of their citizens to study here on Saipan after a visit Friday last week at Northern Marianas College.

The college's public relations office said the Chinese city officials met with NMC officials led by president Dr. Carmen Fernandez last Oct. 10.

A possible partnership between NMC and Kaiping City is now in the works following the visit. Kaiping City is part of Guangdong province.

The city's officials took time to tour the campus and see for themselves some of NMC's facilities.

The delegation included Dawai Tang, Helen He, Tan Wen Han, and Tan Si Yuan.

"The officials expressed strong interest in having students from Kaiping City attend the college as soon as possible," NMC said.

Dr. Fernandez discussed with them the various courses NMC is offering to its students.

She told them that NMC has strong programs in nursing, English, and other areas that would greatly benefit students from China.

Kaiping City officials and the NMC president agreed to continue their communication that would further "the implementation of a partnership toward common goals on education."

Also present during the meeting were NMC Director of Admissions and Records Rosaline Cepeda and two nursing graduates.

Meanwhile, NMC's Final Report on the recommendations by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges is expected to be out today.

Just last week the NMC Board of Regents approved a resolution that would request $3.1 million budget for operational expenses.

That resolution categorically stated that the board's approval of the budget directly addresses the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' Team Recommendation 1, which—among other things—requires the college to integrate its planning processes, evaluation activities, and resource allocations.

Woman sues over parking lot use

A woman who prevailed in her lawsuit over a land ownership dispute has again sued the same defendant to clear the ownership issue of a store's parking lot.

Barbara B. Feger sued Ray M. Bermudes also known as Ray Falcon. She also included the store owner, Lin Jin Song, as co-defendant.

Feger, through counsel Loren A. Sutton, asked the Superior Court to declare that she is the owner of the subject land and was the owner at the time of the trespass.

The plaintiff also requested the court to void a lease agreement entered by Bermudes that allowed Song to use a portion of the land as a parking lot for the store.

Sutton stated in the complaint that after a bench trial commencing on March 19, 2007, the Superior Court on April 30, 2008, entered judgment holding that Lot 012 H 18 belongs to Feger.

Sutton said the court ruled that Bermudes caused a trespass upon Feger's land when he (Bermudes) granted permission to Song to use the property as a parking lot for his business, L&F Market.

He said the court further held that Song was a trespasser on the lot and that Bermudes caused such trespassing.

Sutton said Bermudes was held liable to pay $10,000 in punitive damages over the trespassing.

The lawyer said given these rulings, it is his client's position that Bermudes' granting of permission to Song to use the land as a parking lot was of no legal effect since he had no ownership interest in that lot. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, center, is flanked by Kaiping City officials Dawai Tang, Helen He, Tan Wen Han, and Tan Si Yuan during a visit to her office last Oct. 10.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Two Japanese restaurants sued for unpaid wages

Seventeen employees of Keeraku and Rakuen restaurants filed yesterday a lawsuit in federal court against their employer for alleged unpaid wages.

The employees sued Eastern Hope Corp. that owns the two restaurants in Garapan for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, breach of contract, and violation of Commonwealth Employment Act.

The plaintiffs asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Eastern Hope Corp. to pay them unpaid wages, damages, restitution, courts costs, and attorney's fees.

One of the employees recently discussed with *Saipan Tribune* about their plan to sue management.

Asked for comment earlier about the complaint, Eunae Lee, manager of the restaurants, admitted they were delayed in paying the wages, but that the management has been trying its best in paying the workers.

Lee said they already explained to them that they don't have enough customers plus the fact that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is killing their businesses due to their monthly power billings of $11,000.

Lee said they are aware that other companies are also behind payment to their employees because of the bad economy.

She said they already explained to the workers that they need to pay the power billings first as the management is slowly paying them one by one.

"I'm so sorry for them. But we will pay everything when they finished the contract," the manager said.

Attorney Joseph E. Horey is representing the employees—Ricardo Salem, Romel Codog, Leticia Manuel, Aung Ko Ko Than, Remegio Gonzales, Erick Caisip, Ariel Payoc, Alejandro Del Corro, Jennifer Capati, Nelia San Pascual, Merlinda Gaboya, Tarun Mondal, Zhao Chun Xiang, Chad Almojuela, Virginia Villasan, Jin Shun Yu, and Reynaldo Hermogenes.

Horey stated in the complaint that except for Del Corro who was employed only last month, from prior to July 1, 2008 to the present, plaintiffs were employed by the company in its business operations of Keeraku and Rakuen restaurants.

Horey said except for Almojuela each of the plaintiffs was employed pursuant to Labor-approved contract for a minimum of 40 hours per week and an agreed hourly wage rate.

The lawyer said that since July 2008 defendant has not provided plaintiffs or any of them with more than 35 hours of work per week.

He said that, since July 2008 to the present, plaintiffs have performed at the rate of 30-35 hours per week except Del Corro who did so only last month.

Horey said some plaintiffs have not been paid since last Aug. 1, while others since Aug. 6 and 20.

"Defendants' actions were willful and intentional, done in bad faith for oppressive reasons," Horey said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Birthday greetings go out to Avelyne Amour A. Alvarez who turns 9 years old today, Oct. 15, 2008. Greetings from your Papa, Mama, and Marco.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HIV & STI Response Fund launched

With 30 million dollars from the Australian government and 7.5 million dollars from the New Zealand government over the next five years, the official launch yesterday of the Pacific Islands HIV & STI Response Fund marks a significant step forward in the region's response to HIV and other STIs.

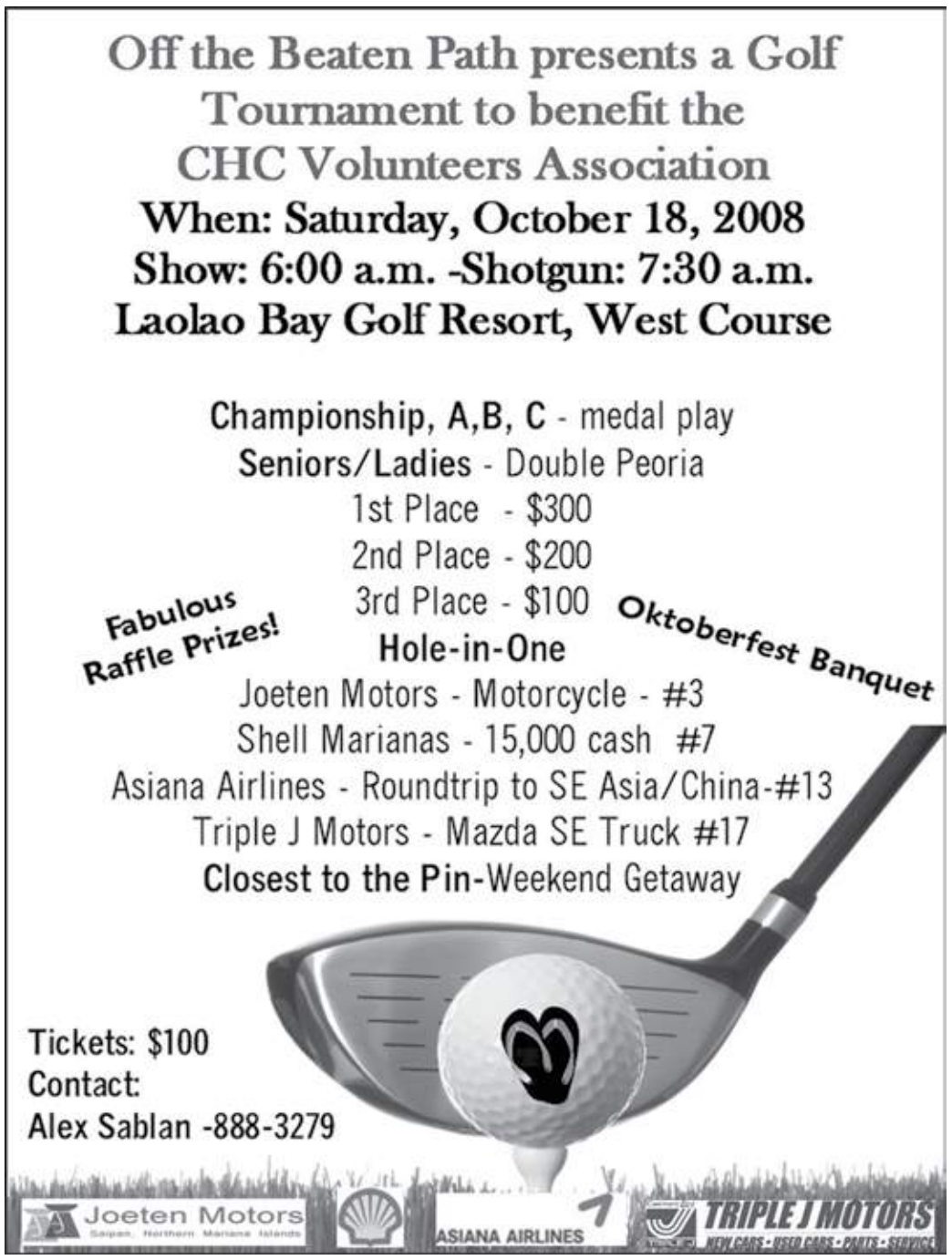
"Through the Response Fund, governments as well as civil society and regional and multilateral agencies will all be able to access funding," said Dr Bun, the chair of the Pacific Islands HIV & STI Response Fund Committee. Dr Bun, in a recorded message, launched the fund on the second day of the 38th meeting of SPC's Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA).

"The purpose of the Response Fund is to support the scale up of the response to HIV and other STIs in the Pacific through an efficient, responsive, multi-donor fund that supports effective implementation of regional and national HIV & STI plans, including the capacity building needs identified in those plans."

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will administer and manage the funding streams and provide a secretariat function for the governance mechanism. The Response Fund Committee is tasked with the responsibility of developing policy and overseeing, on behalf of Pacific Island stakeholders and donors, the effectiveness of the implementation of projects and the effectiveness of the Response Fund mechanisms.

Dr Bun said, "The Response Fund marks another chapter in the harmonization and coordination of our efforts in the response to HIV and to the high prevalence of other STIs in the Pacific region and I would like to encourage other development partners to support this initiative."

The guidelines and application forms to access funding will be made available on SPC's website by beginning of November. ***(SPC)***


Off the Beaten Path presents a Golf Tournament to benefit the CHC Volunteers Association
When: Saturday, October 18, 2008
Show: 6:00 a.m. -Shotgun: 7:30 a.m.
Laolao Bay Golf Resort, West Course
Championship, A,B, C - medal play
Seniors/Ladies - Double Peoria
1st Place - $300
2nd Place - $200
3rd Place - $100
Fabulous Raffle Prizes!
Hole-in-One
Oktoberfest Banquet
Joeten Motors - Motorcycle - #3
Shell Marianas - 15,000 cash #7
Asiana Airlines - Roundtrip to SE Asia/China-#13
Triple J Motors - Mazda SE Truck #17
Closest to the Pin-Weekend Getaway
Tickets: $100
Contact:
Alex Sablan -888-3279
Joeten Motors
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The Choice is Clear.
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present
The BEAT is Back SAIPAN !
CLUB
10TH BACK2BACK
featuring the return of STREET BEAT
Oct. 17, 2008
Friday 6pm
$20 w/ dinner and open bar
Back To Back with 7th SIDE
8pm / $5 door charge w/ 1 complimentary drink
Longer hours for extended music satisfaction!
Another exciting offer from the Grand!
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JUNON Magazine to feature Saipan and Tinian

JUNON Magazine, a popular celebrity information magazine, recently sent their crew to the islands of Saipan and Tinian to shoot for an upcoming article and photo book. The monthly magazine has been published in Japan since 1973. The magazine content is focused on celebrities from the entertainment and sports world. The target audience is students and working women from 19-25. Three pages will be devoted to Saipan and Tinian in their November or December issue.

In addition to the magazine exposure, they will also produce an 80-page Photo Book of Miura Shouhei, who is a television/fashion talent. They distribute 30,000 copies of this publication and Saipan and Tinian will be featured in it as well. The combined estimated in kind ad value is $426,666.

"MVA is glad to have continued in kind exposure in our No. 1 source market of Japan," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The 19-25 age group is a great target market for our islands and we look forward to the continued exposure." ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The crew of popular celebrity information magazine, *JUNON Magazine*, poses for a photo on one of Saipan's pristine beaches in a recent visit to the CNMI capital.

Diversity: looking beyond gender and race

The Society for Human Resource Management is pleased to have James Rayphand, executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) and his staff, Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the Superior Court, and Dr. Teny Topalian, Ph.D., to speak on various facets of diversity.

The chapter meeting will be held at Giovanni's Hyatt Regency Saipan tomorrow, Oct. 16, 2008. Doors open at 8:15am for registration. Cost for Members is $20 and $25 for non-SHRM Members (government purchase orders accepted). Cost includes lunch and materials. Reservations are requested.

Dr. Topalian will be addressing, "The Importance of Preserving Cultural Diversity." Workplace diversity issues tend to be a very sensitive issue and this session will help human resource professionals and business professionals overcome barriers that affect their organization. The session will present information on trends that influence workplace diversity and offer practical information that can be applied in the workplace.

SHRM is committed to encouraging fair and consistent employment practices and policies in the hiring, training, compensation, benefits, promotion, discipline, transfer, and termination of workers. The Society believes that employment decisions should be made on the basis of an individual's qualification, for a job; such as education, experience and demonstrated competencies, not on the basis of non-job related characteristics. Please join us for this very informative session.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 250,000 individual members, the Society's mission is to serve the needs of HR professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive resources available.

As an influential voice, the Society's mission is also to advance the human resource profession to ensure that HR is recognized as an essential partner in developing and executing organizational strategy. The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization.

Individuals interested in attending this meeting should contact the following individuals: Ms. Polly DL Guerrero at pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com, Ms. Frannie T. Salas at e-mail francestsalas@gmail.com, or Ms. Denise Montenegro, Human Resources Dept. at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, telephone: 234-1234. ***(SHRM)***

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, October 17, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM and Saturday, October 18, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports*
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – August 2008
  - Flash Reports – September 2008
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports

III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Land Acquisition Matters
- Board/Administrative Matters: Policy Review

IV OLD BUSINESS
- Tinian Public Market
- IPS Review - ETI
- Website Review and Selection
- House Legislative Initiatives

V NEW BUSINESS
- MPLT Resolution 09-01: Home Loan Program
- Saipan Trust Fund Liquidation

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: August 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting
August 22, 2008, Special Board Meeting

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
- A. Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)
- B. Status of Loan Programs
- C. Other Loan Matters

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Chairman of the Board

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 15, 1999

CUC allots $28 million for fuel

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has increased its budget by some $1.4 million in FY 2000 over last fiscal year to meet increasing fuel costs brought about by high oil prices in the world market, according to officials. Over $28 million or roughly 41 percent of the total fiscal year's budget of $68.4 million have been allotted by the government-owned utility corporation for the purchase of fuel alone to run existing power generators.

Tourist arrivals jump 13 percent in Sept.

Visitor arrivals for the month of September totaled 40,087, or a 13 percent increase compared to the same period in 1998, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. However, the increase was due to the lower base in September 1998 because of the strike by Northwest Airlines pilots (Aug. 13-Sept. 16, 1998). Overall visitor arrivals in Fiscal Year 1999 slid 7 percent compared to FY 1998, or a total of 491,602.

Lawmakers to drop bill backing Marubeni-Sithe

Lawmakers will scrap a proposed measure seeking support for Marubeni-Sithe's bid on the Saipan power project after independent experts ranked higher competing companies in a latest report that countered earlier findings by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Rep. David M. Apatang, chair of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said that by dropping the legislation, it is now up to the CUC Board to choose a contractor to build the 80-megawatt plant.

October 15, 2001

Home no haven for abused mothers

An increasing number of households are slowly changing the image of home as a place where love and understanding overflows. Around 70 cases of domestic violence are reported each month to the Department of Public Safety, or about 630 incidents from January to September this year.

New opportunities lay ahead for NMI farmers

A new policy released by US Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman promises vast opportunities for the CNMI's farming sector, offering local farmers a wider market to sell homegrown products beyond the islands' confines. Natural Resources Conservation Service Director Joan Perry delivered the message to CNMI leaders and guests during Friday's unveiling of the new USDA one-stop service center in Beach Road.

Strong quake rocks Marianas

An earthquake was felt on Saipan at about 1:02am Saturday, but there were no reported damages or casualties as of press time. Yesterday, the Emergency Management Office's operations center said they have no weather bulletin for release, including a forecast for a possible tsunami following the quake.

October 15, 2002

Rebate payout deadline nears

Troubled over the trickled and turtle-paced payout of rebate checks amid the fast approaching deadline, the House Committee on Ways and Means yesterday asked the Office of Public Auditor to conduct an audit on the Special Rebate Trust Account. Rep. Stanley T. Torres, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, formally requested Public Auditor Mike S. Sablan to look into the matter, in a letter dated Oct. 14, 2002.

New name for Saipan airport

The Saipan International Airport is now the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, after Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law yesterday morning the measure renaming the airport to honor the man who pioneered the modernization of the CNMI's lone international air facility. Babauta signed House Local Bill 13-24 in the presence of Ada himself and his immediate family, as well as the lawmakers who sponsored the bill. Ada, who is the CNMI's very first Lt. Governor and was District Administrator when he initiated the airport project, said yesterday prior to the signing of the bill that he feels honored over the naming of the airport after him.

Pacific

3 new Pacific educators in residence welcomed

For more than 20 years, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) has invited Pacific educators to participate in its year-long Pacific Educator in Residence (PEIR) program, either in PREL's Honolulu office or in one of PREL's Service Centers located throughout the Pacific region. Eligibility for this program is open to any teacher, school administrator, counselor, education specialist, or faculty member at an educational institution within American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM; Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau.

During their year at PREL, PEIRs work within their scope of educational interest and expertise. They collaborate with educators in their respective fields and receive mentoring and feedback on their work. Many obtain continuing education credits—some apply their experience to earning educational degrees, including master's and doctoral degrees in education. Upon completing their year with PREL, PEIRs return to their respective communities to share the knowledge and expertise they acquired with their departments and ministries of education. Most have returned to play major roles in education in their home entities

This year, the 2008–2009 PEIR program welcomes educators Monroe David of Pohnpei, Martha Kintol from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Salavao Savea-Lopez of American Samoa

Monroe David's interests are with information technology. Among his many other responsibilities, most recently he has been the leader of the Pohnpei State Government Department of Education's central office and school Internet access. He has also been in charge of the maintenance of all education computers, including those in the five outer islands of Pohnpei, and the Wave email system, which was obtained with PREL's assistance through the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. ED). When asked to describe how his proposed PEIR experience will benefit his community upon his return, David responded, "The benefits will be enormous." Continuing to build capacity for the existing information technology infrastructure and connecting classrooms to the information highway for effective classroom activities are but two of David's major goals.

Martha Kintol of the CNMI Public School System (PSS) is most interested in English language arts and English language learners (ELLs) for grades 4–5. As Vice Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at Dandan Elementary School, Kintol has worked extensively with PREL on early literacy, writers' workshop, ELL leadership training, and assessment. She has organized and facilitated professional development addressing the needs of students and teachers. Kintol wishes to return to the CNMI PSS to share the knowledge gained at PREL—adding another member to the CNMI PSS staff who has received extensive professional development in addressing the needs of ELLs.

From American Samoa, Salavao Savea-Lopez's interests focus on ELLs and English language arts in grades 4–5. Savea-Lopez "believe[s] an effective teacher never ceases to learn and seeks opportunities that will allow him or her to develop and grow professionally in education." She hopes the opportunities offered by PREL and the PEIR program will equip her with the "experience, knowledge, and skills necessary to perpetuate her commitment to providing quality education, thus ensuring the students of American Samoa are literate and productive members of the local as well as the global community."

PREL welcomes these accomplished educators to the PEIR program and looks forward to their success in the interests of Pacific children. For more information about the PEIR program visit *http://www.prel.org/opportunities/pacific-educators-in-residence-program.aspx*.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation that works in partnership with the Pacific educational community to provide quality programs and products developed to promote educational excellence, including professional development and educational materials. In addition, PREL administers the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Pacific, 1 of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories funded through the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. With a commitment to ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to develop a strong academic foundation, regardless of circumstances or geographic location, PREL serves the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM; Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

For additional information about this media release or PREL and its work please contact Jackie Burniske, Director of Communications by telephone at (808) 441-1300 or by email at burniskj@prel.org. ***(PREL)***

American sisters-in-law pulled out to sea; Japanese dies as high surf hits Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—Two sisters-in-law were struck by large waves on the Kauai shore and were pulled out to sea, and a Japanese snorkeler also died over the weekend as high surf hit Hawaii.

The women were strolling along Queen's Bath in Princeville on Sunday when a large wave knocked one woman down and a second wave swept both women into the water, according to Clayton Arinaga, assistant Kauai police chief for patrol services.

One woman's husband tried to swim to them but had to turn back because of strong currents. Lifeguards were not able to resuscitate the women, Arinaga said.

The National Weather Service had advised of high surf Sunday morning for north-facing beaches in Hawaii, including Kauai. The advisory lasts through Tuesday evening, and lifeguards have been warning people away from the water. The waves were expected to reach as high as 18 feet (5.5 meters) on Kauai.

The women were identified as Heather Westphal, 33, of Washington, D.C., and Tonya Cataldo, 38, of Parker, Colorado.

Earlier Sunday, a body surfer at a beach in Kapaa found the body of a snorkeler in the water. Arinaga said the man was 74-year-old Hiroaki Kinjo of Saitama Ken, Japan.

Drowning appeared to have caused all three deaths, but autopsies were scheduled Tuesday.

IRONMAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AP

Amateur competitors swim the first leg of the Ironman World Championship triathlon on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
STADT HAMBURG	023E	9/27 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/20 Sat	10/3 Fri	9/29 Mon	9/28 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/29 Mon	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	011E	10/4 Sat	10/2 Thu	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/27 Sat	10/10 Fri	10/6 Mon	10/5 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	10/6 Mon	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	016E	10/11 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/4 Sat	10/17 Fri	10/13 Mon	10/12 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/13 Mon	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/21 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	024E	10/18 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/11 Sat	10/24 Fri	10/20 Mon	10/19 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/20 Mon	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/28 Tue
MELL SENOKO	012E	10/25 Sat	10/23 Thu	10/23 Thu	10/21 Tue	10/18 Sat	10/31 Fri	10/27 Mon	10/26 Sun	10/19 Sun	10/19 Sun	10/27 Mon	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/4 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	017E	11/1 Sat	10/30 Thu	10/30 Thu	10/28 Tue	10/25 Sat	11/7 Fri	11/3 Mon	11/2 Sun	10/26 Sun	10/26 Sun	11/3 Mon	11/7 Fri	11/8 Sat	11/11 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	023E	10/11 Sat	10/12 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/14 Tue	10/16 Thu	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/21 Tue	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/30 Thu	10/28 Tue	10/26 Sun	10/29 Wed
MELL SENOKO	011E	10/18 Sat	10/19 Sun	10/19 Sun	SKIP	10/23 Thu	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/28 Tue	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/6 Thu	11/25 Tue	11/23 Sun	11/5 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	016E	10/25 Sat	10/26 Sun	10/26 Sun	10/28 Tue	10/30 Thu	10/31 Fri	11/1 Sat	11/4 Tue	11/7 Fri	11/8 Sat	11/13 Thu	12/2 Tue	11/30 Sun	11/12 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	024E	11/1 Sat	11/2 Sun	11/2 Sun	SKIP	11/6 Thu	11/7 Fri	11/8 Sat	11/11 Tue	11/14 Fri	11/15 Sat	11/20 Thu	12/9 Tue	12/7 Sun	11/19 Wed
MELL SENOKO	012E	11/8 Sat	11/9 Sun	11/9 Sun	11/11 Tue	11/13 Thu	11/14 Fri	11/15 Sat	11/18 Tue	11/21 Fri	11/22 Sat	11/27 Thu	12/16 Tue	12/14 Sun	11/26 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	017E	11/15 Sat	11/16 Sun	11/16 Sun	SKIP	11/20 Thu	11/21 Fri	11/22 Sat	11/25 Tue	11/28 Fri	11/29 Sat	12/4 Thu	12/23 Tue	12/21 Sun	12/3 Wed

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Moving the world

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Scattershot approach

"I will not take your shotgun away. I will not take your rifle away. I won't take your handgun away." Those words, intoned by Barack Obama at a Virginia campaign event in September, were a kind of incantation aimed at exorcising the ghost of Al Gore from the Democratic presidential race. Gore's favorable stance on gun control was widely seen as a key factor in his loss to George W. Bush in 2000, and it's not likely another Democrat will soon make the same mistake. Yet if Obama thought he was making any friends with the virulently pro-gun National Rifle Association, he's out of luck.

The NRA on Thursday officially endorsed John McCain, though that was merely a formality given that it had already spent $2.3 million on attack ads targeting Obama. This puts the organization in the odd position of throwing its considerable political clout behind a Republican candidate whom its official journal once called "one of the premier flag carriers for enemies of the Second Amendment," and against a Democrat who never tires of telling voters that he believes in the right to bear arms. So what gives? Apparently, the NRA thinks that McCain's past legislative sins against gun ownership are forgivable, while Obama's are not.

The gun lobby was furious seven years ago when the McCain-Feingold bill threatened to limit the ability of advocacy groups such as the NRA to sponsor political ads; McCain also prominently backed a bill that would have required dealers at gun shows to run background checks on buyers, a smart strategy for keeping guns out of the hands of criminals that horrifies the NRA. McCain's choice of lifetime NRA member Sarah Palin as vice president, on the other hand, seems to have erased any doubts about his loyalty to the Colt-hugging crew.

Obama, meanwhile, is widely suspected of being a gun-control sympathizer despite his pro-gun rhetoric. He backed the federal ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004, and as an Illinois lawmaker he supported some gun-control bills, most of which failed. Even during the presidential campaign, he hasn't ruled out "common-sense" efforts to lower the murder rate in big cities. That's anathema to the NRA, which wants no one to abridge gang members' right to slaughter one another.

Even if the NRA is right about Obama, he's still not going to take Americans' guns away. By striking down Washington's handgun ban in June, the Supreme Court assured that it will be very difficult for the government to forbid gun ownership by law-abiding citizens in the future. It's unclear whether the NRA cares; having won its Second Amendment battle, it's now out to block any restriction on gun freedom, even the freedom of felons and the mentally ill to buy guns. There are dangers in such extremism, and they'll become clearer as the body count rises.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

What happens next?

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value toexchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Predicting the future for fun and profit, Taoist style

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

THE CONSTANTS OF CHANGE

According to Taoist principles: yin and yang not only balance each other, but also complement each other in cycles. This is the third principle of Taoism: Cyclical Growth. The sun is replaced by the moon, then the moon is replaced by the sun. Summer is replaced by winter, then winter is replaced by summer. Light is replaced by dark, then dark is replaced by light. Everywhere in nature, you will see these basic cycles.

In addition, The Tao of Change reveals that nothing stands still. That nothing lasts forever and that for everything there is a proper time. "*He who does not strive to hasten good fortune prematurely and he who can accept inevitable decline achieves true contentment. Treading the middle path of balanced progress, he avoids all conflicts by aligning himself with the steady rhythms of the universe and finally becomes one with Tao, or walks with God.*"

Beyond intuition and psychic ability there exists a science to predicting the future. If you watch, record and analyze trends, if you take the pulse of the people, if you gather information and have the necessary pieces of the right puzzle, and if you understand the interplay of forces, you can predict what the future holds.

If predicting the future seems purely speculative, it's because most of us don't have all the pieces of the right puzzle, or know what forces are at play in any situation, whether Yang or Yin. If you are not aware of who is involved and what their agendas are, then outcomes will seem random.

For instance, the reason history has seemed a random, almost chaotic series of unconnected events is that people are oblivious to the fact that both Yin and Yang forces are at work. There are hidden agendas about which the majority of people are oblivious. Wars don't just happen by accident. People orchestrate them for fun and profit. There are Yin and Yang forces at work on both sides.

With that said, and in the interest of brevity, I won't go into the formulas and techniques one would employ to do so, I'll simply offer the following predictions and what they may hold from an entrepreneurial perspective.

In all cases of significant change, there are some constants. From an entrepreneurial, or simply an investor's perspective, it is wise to note and to prepare for the following:

- A void will be created;
- A new image will be needed to replace the old;
- A brand identity will need to be created;
- Analysis, documentation, explanation and representation of the transition will be sought; and
- New products will be created to represent the new identity.

It is in these constants, that opportunity exists and can be planned for by the wise entrepreneur. This is a very short list of predictions for the sake of exploration.

THE PREDICTIONS:

1. Barack Obama becomes U.S. president

In 21 days, the United States will decide who its next president will be.

From an entrepreneurial perspective, a Barack victory is rife with opportunity. It's a manifestation of the quintessential American Dream. Optimism will increase. (At the very least, jokes will

See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Candidates jockeying for votes

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is the secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Improvement of the local economy was showered with the usual tired old answers as candidates found themselves grasping for old ideas hoping they could offer concretes. Nice try! Their answers were vacuous and didn't offer concretes to shore-up stable policies from both sides of the Pacific Divide.

Candidates for the first NMI non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress have been appearing on various forums expressing their views on several issues. Some have spoken with fresh ideas. Others have tried reinventing the wheel by regurgitating old ideas, while still others are completely off base.

For all the tired rhetoric we've heard so far, I often quiz if these folks are wary of the piles or layers of government they had to deal with, ALONE! For instance, there are 440 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, in addition to five non-voting delegates, 100 members of the U.S. Senate, and various departments of the federal government and over 1,000 agencies up and down Pennsylvania Avenue.

I recall former Delegate Bob Underwood conducting a familiarization presentation for his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. Most remember Guam's Andersen Air Force Base. That is the extent of their knowledge about Guam, never mind the indignity of its unincorporated territorial status. The ongoing build-up should make its people happy campers in the overall scheme of things. This viewpoint is as condescending as you wanted to be.

Now, we should congratulate senior members of the U.S. Congress for our newly obtained perpetual trophy on our "vote that counts when it doesn't and doesn't count when it counts". We fight wars side-by-side and sing the same national anthem along fully represented soldiers. We're wary of our military mission, screw the indignities hidden in our helmets, rifles or 60-pound bags. But then even women were once denied voting rights; Native Americans robbed of their land, and African Americans had to endure more than a century of discrimination. Is this indignity part of the process in the long and expensive journey to securing our rights to freedom and justice?

Who am I to complaint? A U.S. citizen who demands for, yes, Equal Representation!

The other salient issue where candidates turn mute is the rights of indigenous governance to a greater degree of self-government. This is guaranteed the CNMI under the Covenant Agreement. Where do you stand on this question? Or is it an issue that is best left unanswered with clarity for fear of having to do it right? Would you settle for acquiescence or explore refining our political relationship via the lawsuit? Isn't seeking redress part and whole of our democratic system of government? I'd like to see the Big Boys grope for words on these queries!

Improvement of the local economy was showered with the usual tired old answers as candidates found themselves grasping for old ideas hoping they could offer concretes. Nice try! Their answers were vacuous and didn't offer concretes to shore-up stable policies from both sides of the Pacific Divide.

New investments? Isn't it at DPL where investments of magnitude begin? Did you folks know that or did it escape your nimble minds?

The one issue that we must demand from Uncle Sam is EQUAL REPRESENTATION!

How long must we serve as humble indentured slaves of the new patron saints of the NMI the likes of Congressman George Miller, Rep. Donna Christensen, Antonio Babauta, Alan Stayman and David Cohen? Has it ever occurred to you the indignities we endure by voting for NON-VOTING delegates to the U.S. Congress? NON-VOTING? Where is equal representation in this grand contraption hailing from Washington?

The CNMI must consistently express its disgust and disagreement in this NON-VOTING delegate concept so demeaning for U.S. citizens outside mainstream US of A. Either we are part of it or we're slaves in subtle form but must endure whimsical disposition as second class citizens. If you disagree, perhaps you have reasons to unravel, convenient excuses we have learned about freedom and equal representation in Problems of American Democracy.

Sad, isn't it, the assertion from the sacred documents of our country that is far from reality? And at the end of the day, we intone the patriotic phrase "and crown thy good, with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea."

Finally, the mess at Wall Street that has now found its way into Main Street started by predatory politicians on Capitol Hill who boasted that everything is fine. These are the folks who were direct beneficiaries of bankrupt banks, financing firms, Freddie Mac and Fanny Mae. Each must be investigated to the full extent of the law, their names displayed in banner headlines, full film clips as handcuffs are placed around their wrists and another full view of the cells as metal doors are slammed shut for lifetime. Call it the epitome of corruption at the highest level.

WHAT

From Page 10

abound, and T-shirts will be in demand!) At the same time, fears will increase. Opposition will mount. In addition, a Barack presidency would usher in a new era of media coverage for the United States. Given the downward slide of U.S. reputation abroad, the coverage will be more favorable. What will it all mean?

2. The Mariana Monument is approved

A Mariana monument would turn the world's attention to this region of the world. Experts will be in demand—indigenous culture experts, marine life experts. Grants will become available for educational, scientific as well as business ventures. Marine Projects will need consultants. New businesses will be launched. Where will the opportunity exist?

3. The last garment factory on Saipan closes

If you simply follow the trend to its apparent conclusion, you can predict this one. It's the end of an era. There is now an opportunity to fill the void. A new brand identity will be up for grabs. What will Saipan be known for? What will be the new identity? Articles will need to be written. Industries will vie for the top spot.

4. The auto industry continues its decline

According to experts, every 50 to 60 years, the transportation industry undergoes a dramatic shift. First there were the canals (1800s), then the railroads (1850), then the highway system (1900), then air travel (1950). The question that pundits are pondering in these the beginning years of the expected major trends is: what is the next big thing? Some believe it is aerospace. Some believe it is mass transit—a shift away from the individual reliance of a single automobile. Some believe it is not the movement of people, but the movement of matter.

PREDICTING THE FORCES AT PLAY

Now, with just those four predictions to contemplate, let's take this a step further. The famous Yin and Yang symbol of Taoism is used to represent the many aspects of change in the universe. The aspect we'll take a look at today describes the interaction between opposing forces.

Generating:

1) Yang generates Yang
3) Yin generates Yang
2) Yin generates Yin
4) Yang generates Yin

Degenerating:

1) Yang destroys Yang
3) Yin destroys Yang
2) Yin destroys Yin
4) Yang destroys Yin

The generating interaction can be understood in terms of the following example. Rampaging criminals cause people to establish a police force to protect themselves. So Yin (criminals) generates Yang (police force) because the police force would not exist if criminals did not exist. Gradually the police force grows (Yang generates Yang) and soon it becomes burdensome to support. Taxes are raised (Yang generates Yin). Meanwhile, criminal forces also grow to counteract the expanding police (Yin generates Yin). Corruption in the police force results in its participation in crimes (Yang generates Yin).

The degenerating interaction can be understood in terms of the following example. When a police force captures a criminal, a Yang-destroys-Yin interaction is taking place. When the government cuts the force's funds, a Yang-destroys-Yang interaction is taking place. When its funds are reduced, the force is overcome by criminals, a Yin-destroys-Yang interaction. While criminals kill each other a Yin-destroys-Yin interaction is taking place.

To get a better handle on predicting the future, ask the following questions: Who are the Yin forces at play? Who are the Yang? What is each side likely to do in each prediction scenario above? For example, when Obama is elected president, or when the monument gets approved, what would the "generating" scenarios look like? What would the degenerating scenarios look like? What opportunities would each scenario create?

In the next part in this series, we'll explore some specifics. If you'd like to participate, send your comments to me at walt@passionprofit.com

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!--Walt

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. *Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Farewell to Sgt. Julian Manglona

My family and I would like to send our condolences to Sgt. Julian Manglona's family. I served in Iraq with him, and he is indeed a good leader, soldier, and most of all a good friend. Our prayers and thoughts go out to you. To Sgt. Julian Manglona you are in a safer place now, see you later che'lu and "GO FOR BROKE".

Jeff Diaz
Las Vegas, NV

Goodbye to a friend

It is with great sorrow that I heard about Julian Maglona's death in the U.S. mainland. I was completely shocked, especially since it was in the course of training. He seemed to be extremely fit.

On my first arrival on Tinian so many years ago, I first met Julian, he was a young cop, and had pulled me over on my first day on Tinian, while I was driving a rental car.

We soon became friends along with his family.

Julian had gone fishing with me many times on my 42" sport fisher, along with ocean trips to Rota and Saipan. We also had made many trips together on his small boat.

Over the years, he and his family have continued to help and offer advice to me and my wife.

Since I am presently off-island at this time I wish to extend my condolences to his family in this time of extreme sorrow. We will remember him in our prayers.

May God speed to a very sincere person who will be missed by all whose lives he has touched.

John Mixson
Via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms in the morning, then partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲88° ▼78°

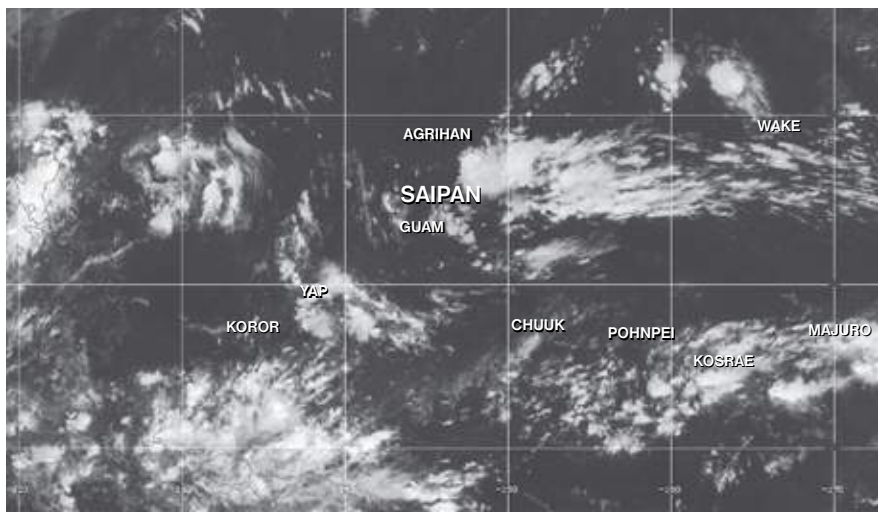
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼70
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼50
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲79	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼74
London	Showers	▲66	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼57
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼76
New York	Cloudy	▲76	▼57
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼55
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Pusan	Sunny	▲75	▼62
Rome	Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼56
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼62
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲82	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds converging toward a trough just west of the discussion area are causing scattered showers west of 134E between 14N an 19N. A surface trough moving westward across Yap state and approaching Palau extends from 15N139E to 3N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are in an area from 16N138E to 12N139E to 7N145E to 7N138E to 12N135E back to 16N138E. Low-level convergence south of Palau is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of 5N between 130E and 140E. An upper-level trough over the Marianas extends northeastward from 15N144E past 25N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are in a large area from 18N147E to 19N160E to 14N162E to 10N152E to 13N144E back to 18N147E. Upper-level divergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just northwest of Wake within 80 miles of a line from 23N163E to 19N166E. An upper-level low is centered near 22N176E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of a line from 22N175E to 17N175E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from south of Pohnpei eastward across Kosrae and the Marshall Islands or within 160 miles of a line from 2N154E to 5N165E to 6N179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:36AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:57AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:51PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:23PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09AM	5:57 PM
Thursday	6:09AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:09AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:09AM	5:55 PM
Sunday	6:09AM	5:54 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:04PM	6:10AM
Thursday	6:54PM	7:10AM
Friday	7:49PM	8:15AM
Saturday	8:49PM	9:21AM
Sunday	9:53PM	10:27AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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How powerful a president?

By DANA D. NELSON
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Nelson, a professor of American studies at Vanderbilt University, is the author of "Bad for Democracy: How the Presidency Undermines the Power of the People.

In answering Gwen Ifill's question about vice presidential powers in the recent debate, Joe Biden redirected attention to the still not very well known concept of the "unitary executive."

Biden charged that Dick Cheney had become "the most dangerous vice president we've had probably in American history" because of his attempts to create a super-powerful unitary executive. Biden didn't take time to explain exactly what he meant, but it's an extremely important, poorly understood subject, and it's time to question the presidential candidates—closely—about it.

Plenty of presidents have worked to increase presidential power over the years, but the theory of the unitary executive, first proposed under President Reagan, has been expanded since then by every president, Democrat and Republican alike. Reagan's notion was that only a strong president would be able to dramatically limit big government. Perhaps drawing on a model for unitary corporate leadership in which the CEO also serves as chairman of the board, the so-called unitary executive promised undivided presidential control of the executive branch and its agencies, expanded unilateral powers and avowedly adversarial relations with Congress.

In the years that followed, Heritage Foundation and Federalist Society conservatives worked to provide a constitutional cover for this theory, producing thousands of pages in the 1990s claiming—often erroneously and misleadingly—that the framers themselves had intended this model for the office of the presidency.

Unitarians (for lack of a better word) want to expand the many existing uncheckable executive powers—such as executive orders, decrees, memorandums, proclamations, national security directives and legislative signing statements—that enable presidents to enact a good deal of foreign and domestic policy without aid, interference or consent from Congress. Ardent proponents even insist that there are times when the president—like a king—should operate above the law.

Presidents and their supporters justify the unitary executive with an expansive reading of Article II of the Constitution (which sets out the role of the executive branch), invariably citing congressional log-jamming (what we used to call "checking and balancing") or national security.

Each president since 1980 has used the theory to seize more and more power. Reagan used expanded unilateral powers to launch an era of deregulation. Presidents George H.W. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush all used the legislative signing statement—the written text they are allowed to give when signing a bill into law explaining their position—not simply to offer warnings and legal interpretations but to make unilateral determinations about the validity of the provisions of particular statutes. The American Bar Association denounced this practice in 2006 as presenting "grave harm to the separation of powers doctrine, and the system of checks and balances, that have sustained our democracy for more than two centuries."

One problem is that presidential unilateralism can seem reassuring in times of crisis, so it often receives congressional support. Most recently, in the name of managing our fiscal crisis, Congress has granted unprecedented powers to the executive and to an unelected and unaccountable secretary of the Treasury.

Another problem is that once Congress gives powers to the executive branch, it seldom can get them back. In 2001, Congress granted Bush the authorization to use military force against terrorists; five years later, when Congress sought to take back some of that authority by passing a bipartisan anti-torture bill, Bush was unwilling to back down. Instead, he signed the bill into law but appended a signing statement insisting that he would uphold the law in a manner consistent with "the constitutional authority of the president to supervise the unitary executive branch and as commander in chief." In other words, he would ignore its provisions if he felt they limited his authority.

Bush's aggressive exercise of unilateral powers has attracted serious opposition. Unfortunately, too many people imagine that the unitary executive doctrine and its kingly prerogatives will leave office with him. That hope is false. History teaches that presidents do not give up power—both Democrats and Republicans have worked to keep it. And besides, hoping the next president will give back some powers means conceding that it is up to him to make that decision.

If people have found Bush's exercise of executive power alarming, they should not only begin questioning presidential candidates about it, they should make it clear to their congressional representatives that they want these excess powers checked. Barack Obama has promised that he will continue using signing statements, although he will not act as if they have the force of law. Interestingly enough, John McCain has suggested he will end the practice. These slim indicators deserve more pressure and scrutiny.

Letters to the Editor

The magic act is over

It makes little sense to place blame on the authors, leaders, and committees in Washington that investigated and found a need for the imminent federal takeover. The simple fact that residents in the Northern Marianna Islands are now living the consequence of economic devastation crafted by decades of sub-par leadership is the very reason the investigations were necessary.

It is further inappropriate of anyone to respond with desperate arrogance and indecent ramblings—more closely resembling the temper tantrums of toddlers. This approach would be more correctly directed at some of the past and current leadership elected to office on our island.

The past decades of indentured servitude (read: slavery), tolerated in the garment industry is now past. The $1.2 billion annually generated blood money remitting some $32 million into the local pockets of crooked politicians and control-driven officials, in the form of direct taxes, is now faded memory. The cruel working conditions imposed on foreign workers are also gone. It is time to wash our hands of the earlier atrocities, of which we were associated. Its earlier proponents and immoral masterminds, who fought long and hard to see its conception, now reside in prison. The end result of the blind faith some of us had in those leaders is misdirected name-calling and finger-pointing.

Instead of dusting ourselves off and shaking away the moths of cruelty and injustice, a small group of our most intelligent citizens betray our culture with false accusations and the illusion of justified resentment. When their intellect could be used to help find a better suited means of unity, they instead reduce themselves to the performance of street artists and back alley magicians. Rather than considering why the United States is appropriately assuming authority in the affairs of immigration and foreign matters within the CNMI, our leaders should be justifying their positions and discovering solutions to the turmoil now apparent in our islands.

Instead of centering attention on unfounded lawsuits, the elected governor should be researching ways for the CNMI to become self-sufficient. Furthermore, having their cronies compose letters to newspapers in an attempt to have their audience (that would be us) engaged in the opposite direction for worry of revealing the method of their illusion will no longer be tolerated. The magic act is finished! The crooked lobbyists are revealing the depths of their evil. They are now listing the composition of their inner-circle; those involved in their unethical collaboration, or falsely claiming remorse for their misdeeds. Where now are Jack Abramoff and his Gang of Five? Where are the rest of his cohorts? Justice was served and we must wash our hands of the former relationship they had with some of our elected officials.

Now, when the entire world is suffering impending global collapse in the financial system, cries for the right to self-government again rise! Why now, instead of devising ways to unify our people, is the governor accusing the United States of failing to fulfill promises?! What of our obligation to stand on our own feet?! Did he not read the entire section detailing self-government with regard to internal affairs? No. The governors out-of-date advisor/lawyer/counsel, stated in the *Saipan Tribune*, Section 105 of the Covenant forbids the U.S. from abrogating the Commonwealth's right to local self-government without its consent. Umm, no it did not. I implore you, Mr. Willens; please refrain from taking an important document out of context, which is more like a false prophet or preacher and less like educated legal counsel. Section 105, however, does state that the United States may indeed enact legislation in accordance with its constitutional processes which will be applicable to the CNMI. Regarding self-government, it further states that the United States agrees to limit (let me spell it for you: L-I-M-I-T) the exercise of that authority, to allow modification of the fundamental provisions on the Covenant with the consent of the Government of the U.S. and the Government of the CNMI. Simply put, they can enact legislation and they have had to, due to the inability of some of our leadership to effectively manage-pretty much everything. Their agreement to limit that exercise of authority was adhered to, but due to the incompetence and ravenous greed plaguing some of our past leadership and a few in the current, it was and is time for that authority to be exercised. Furthermore, Article I, section 103, states again our ability to self-government regarding internal affairs.

Clearly, the governor's lawsuit holds no substance. He twists his wording to fit his scheme—hoping we do not independently research—praying we would heed his rhetoric like blind fanatics. In fact, his ideals and this lawsuit are ill conceived. He (the governor) holds no pride in attaining financial independence or self-sufficiency, expectantly holding out his money hungry hand to the federal government—demanding our annual welfare check! All he wants is to remain fully dependent on the federal government. The only excuse justifying that goal is to use his constituents and our economic condition as a means to an end. He is using us like some illegally use children for more government subsidies! Is this how low we see ourselves? Does our reflection return images of being solely food stamp and welfare fund recipients, forever to rely on hand-outs? Listen, when in need, government subsidies can provide necessary sustenance. Those services are to be used sparingly and only in dire times, but never were we to be forever reliant upon it! It has no place in the daily conduct of Chamorros, Carolinians, or any other CNMI resident.

We are better than this and were raised to prove our worth in caring for our families, respecting our culture, and together promoting the family-oriented nature Americans know and admire of us. The mindset plaguing few of our leadership, holding back the evolutionary inevitability essential to advance in today's society, is and will be the downfall of our culture. Greed contingent on federal handouts will hold back the paradigm shift needed to bring adequate change to our islands. And the inability to aspire for self-sufficiency, independence and stability is detrimental to our future. The Our Way premise founded on an antiquated system of false-tradition is long overdue to be shed from our culture. History has unfortunately proven those kinds of mindsets to be the downfall of many strong societies. True respect is to be gained not easily given. True leadership is earned, not demanded. Friends, family—what the officials in Washington are doing, are imploring our governor to drop this joke of a lawsuit. Not because it has substance, but because they realize the waste of money associated with it and the end result of the suit on us. Almost unanimously, the Legislature opposes this suit as well. Only the governor and his legal counsel continue try and convince them otherwise. Mr. Fitial sugarcoats his words to the public, while calling our Legislature disloyal to the people. Look in the mirror, sir. Regardless of what some profess, it is NOT American to seek redress via the court system, if the basis is founded on lies or incorrect interpretation! It is low and even criminal to seek monetary gain by using the judicial system to seek redress in this manner.

This lawsuit is no different than suits over hot coffee or injuries during acts of robbery. Moreover, coloring racist statements with eloquent vocabulary does not make the statement any less racist. It is unbecoming of anyone to demean themselves, or their culture, by lowering themselves to this kind of ignorance, especially when in a position of authority and respect. There are no persons lower than those who resort to profanity, expletives demeaning of the opposite gender, or racial slurs, simply because they do not have the ability to get their way or because their argument is founded on greed. They should be looked on in disgust! While the rest of the world is equally suffering through a global financial crisis, we should instead be seeking a means to change. The inefficient management affecting some of our leadership has finally shown its true visage. The time for change is long overdue but nothing will be able to happen if we continue to allow those who lack the ability to fulfill the obligations of their positions to remain. We must completely refuse to vote for governors, senators, or other representatives who lack the capacity and experience to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

Dwaine Blas Reyes
Sierra Vista, AZ

Business

Bush to announce expanded bank bailout details

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration plans to spend an initial $250 billion of the $700 billion bailout buying stock in private banks, greatly expanding protections for the U.S. financial system out of deep concern for the faltering economy, industry and government officials said Monday night. President Bush planned to announce the details Tuesday morning.

Agreement on the plan came after a remarkable Treasury Department meeting between top government economic officials and executives of the nation's largest banks to revamp the most costly financial rescue in the nation's history.

The plan also would provide a way for the government to insure loans that banks make to each other, a critical part of the credit system that has become frozen and put many businesses in peril.

Earlier Monday, stocks soared around the world in response to dramatic government economic relief efforts in the U.S. and overseas—and the possibility of the even bolder American action.

Monday night, the Treasury Department said the administration had decided on "comprehensive actions" to bolster public confidence in the nation's financial system. Bush was to be briefed early Tuesday by economic advisers and then announce the plan, which Treasury said was designed to "restore functioning of our credit markets."

AP

President Bush pauses as he makes a statement on the financial crisis with the G7 Finance Ministers in the Rose Garden of the White House Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, in Washington. Listening are Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde.

While the administration refused to provide details in advance, industry and government officials with knowledge of the plan said it would include billions of dollars in spending by the government to purchase stock in banks as a way of providing them desperately needed money so they could resume more normal lending. The industry and government officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the details were yet to be formally released.

The administration will use $250 billion of the bailout program recently passed by Congress to buy into U.S. banks, the officials said. The government initially will purchase stock of nine large banks, but the program is expected to be expanded to many others. Among the initial banks participating will be all of the country's largest institutions, including Citigroup Inc., Wells Fargo & Co., JPMorgan Chase & Co, Bank of America Corp. and Morgan Stanley, said one official, who added that administration briefers did not provide any amounts that would be received by individual banks.

The administration expects to spend the $250 billion buying bank stock before the end of this year, this official said. Bush will certify on Tuesday that another $100 billion is needed from the $700 billion rescue program. That would leave the final $350 billion to be spent.

Asian stocks soar after US rally; Nikkei up 13 pct

HONG KONG (AP)—Japan's stock market soared in early trading Tuesday, leading a second-day rally in Asian stocks after Wall Street staged a dramatic comeback from its worst week ever.

Sparked by global efforts to fix the world's crippled financial system, Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 index jumped 1,079 points, or 13 percent, to 9,355. The Japanese financial markets were playing catch-up because they were closed Monday for a public holiday.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX200 index traded more than 5 percent higher after the government announced plans to inject 10.4 billion Australian dollars ($7.4 billion) to strengthen the country's economy.

Markets in South Korea, Singapore, New Zealand and Taiwan also climbed 5 percent or more.

The advance came after the Dow Jones industrial averages on Monday gained more than 11 percent—its biggest one-day rally since 1933.

Traders reacted with relief moves by the U.S. government to inject capital into major banks and get lending flowing again among companies. That followed signals that European governments were putting up nearly $2 trillion to safeguard their own banks.

"The governments are ensuring that no matter what happens they're not going to allow another major institution to fail," said Nicole Sze, an investment analyst at asset manager Bank Julius Baer & Co. in Singapore. "What's happened in the last 48 years is an extremely positive development. ... You're seeing a reversal of the panic selling, and we think a temporary bottom has been found."

Bush critic Paul Krugman wins economics Nobel

AP

Paul Krugman, Princeton University professor of economics and international affairs, listens to his introduction at a gathering in Princeton, after he was announced the winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize in economics Monday, Oct. 13, 2008.

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP)—Paul Krugman, whose relentless criticism of the Bush administration includes opposition to the $700 billion financial bailout, won the Nobel prize in economics Monday for his work on international trade patterns.

The Princeton University professor and *New York Times* columnist is the best-known American economist to win the prize in decades.

The Nobel committee commended Krugman's work on global trade, beginning with a 10-page paper in 1979 that knit together two fields of study, helping foster a better understanding of why countries produce similar products and why people move from the small towns to cities.

Krugman (pronounced KROOG-man) is best known for his unabashedly liberal column in the Times, which he has written since 1999. In it, he has said Republicans are becoming "the party of the stupid" and that the economic meltdown made GOP presidential nominee John McCain "more frightening now than he was a few weeks ago."

But at a news conference, Krugman said he doesn't think he won the prize because of his political views.

"Nobel prizes are given to intellectuals," he said. "A lot of intellectuals are anti-Bush."

Tore Ellingsen, a member of the prize committee, acknowledged that Krugman was an "opinion maker" but said he was honored solely for his research. "We disregard everything except for the scientific merits," Ellingsen told The Associated Press.

Following last year's Nobel peace prize award to former Vice President Al Gore and 2002's peace prize to former President Jimmy Carter, some on the right have dismissed the Nobels as politically motivated. By picking one of the best-known voices on the left three weeks before a presidential election, The Royal Swedish Academy is sure to provoke further criticism.

Morgan Stanley gets lifeline, is ready for deals

NEW YORK (AP)—Morgan Stanley averted disaster with a $9 billion lifeline from a major Japanese bank, and on Monday declared it will use that money to pick off smaller rivals.

Just a few days ago, some on Wall Street openly questioned if the embattled investment bank would be the next to collapse amid a deepening global credit crisis. Now, Morgan Stanley appears emboldened by the 21 percent stake taken by Japanese lender Mitsubishi UFJ—and, for now, seems to have regained the market's confidence.

Investors poured back into Morgan Stanley shares, which last week plunged 60 percent. Shares recouped $8.42, or 87 percent, to close at $18.10.

"This is Darwinism finance, literally the survival of the fittest for the banks," said Chris Johnson, chief investment strategist at Johnson Research Group. "This is Wall Street's version of the Amazing Race where these companies are going to jump through hoops and rings of fire to rebuild their businesses as quickly as possible."

The closing of the Morgan Stanley deal, which was agreed upon last month, came as Spain's Banco Santander SA said it was in talks to acquire Pennsylvania's Sovereign Bancorp Inc.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing, striking machinists' talks break down

SEATTLE (AP)—Boeing Co. says renewed negotiations with its striking machinists broke down over an issue crucial to the company's "long-term competitiveness." A labor leader says the union was being asked to bargain away 2,000 jobs. The failed talks are the latest twist in the five-week-old strike by more than 27,000 commercial jet production workers, with both sides seemingly far apart on key issues as the walkout enters its 39th day. The strike has halted jet assembly at Boeing plants in Washington, Oregon and Kansas. Talks between the two sides resumed Sunday for the first time since machinists went on strike Sept. 6 over issues that include job security, pay, retirement benefits and health care. Doug Kight, Boeing vice president of human resources and the company's chief negotiator, said the company was disappointed in the breakdown late Monday.

GM to close stamping plant near Grand Rapids

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp.'s efforts to hoard cash and outlast a prolonged economic slump claimed the jobs of more than 2,700 workers Monday as the automaker announced the demise of factories in Michigan and Wisconsin. GM said it would shutter a metal stamping factory in the Grand Rapids suburb of Wyoming by the end of next year, and it also sped up the closure of its Janesville, Wis., sport utility vehicle plant, with most of that facility shuttering Dec. 23. "I am sick about what's happened here," said Greg Golembiewski, president of the United Auto Workers local at the Wyoming factory, who thought the plant was safe because of its safety and productivity awards. "I am devastated. I'd like not to believe what I heard today. It's like a bad dream." The moves came on a day when GM's stock finally showed signs of life after a catastrophic drop last week. The automaker's shares jumped $1.62, or 33 percent, to $6.51, after hitting $4 Friday, their lowest level 59 years.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,335.20 Up 154.50 (+3.70%)
HONG KONG	17,027.83 Up 715.67 (+4.39%)
JAKARTA	1,559.18 Up 97.31 (+6.66%)
TOKYO	9,447.57 Up 1,171.14 (+14.15%)
K. LUMPUR	986.14 Up 17.38 (+1.83%)
MANILA	2,273.65 Up 154.90 (+7.31%)
SINGAPORE	2,211.47 Up 135.12 (+6.51%)
SEOUL	1,322.51 Up 75.77 (+6.10%)
BANGKOK	508.96 Up 32.63 (+6.85%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,387.61 +11.08%
S&P	1,0003.35 +11.58%
NASDAQ	1,844.25 +11.81%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4153
British Pound	0.5734
Canadian Dollar	1.1419
Chinese Yuan	6.8320
Euro	0.7330
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7614
Indian Rupee	47.7350
Indonesian Rupiah	9,790.0000
Japanese Yen	102.2600
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4975
New Zealand Dollar	1.6117
Philippine Peso	47.1400
Singapore Dollar	1.4599
South Korean Won	1,209.6000
Swiss Franc	1.1364
Taiwan Dollar	32.3800
Thailand Baht	34.0900

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Wildfires force frantic evacuations near L.A.; 2 die

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two huge wildfires driven by strong Santa Ana winds burned into neighborhoods near Los Angeles on Monday, forcing frantic evacuations on smoke- and traffic-choked highways, destroying homes and causing at least two deaths.

Around sunset, residents were warned to stay on alert during the night and winds more than 60 mph were forecast.

More than 1,000 firefighters and nine water-dropping aircraft battled the 4,700-acre Marek Fire at the northeast end of the San Fernando Valley, and the 5,000-acre Sesnon Fire at the west end.

Winds blew up to 45 mph with gusts reaching 70 mph at midday. They were forecast to diminish in the evening before roaring over 60 mph after 11 p.m.

"This fire has the real potential of moving from where it is now ... as far as Pacific Coast (Highway)," said Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman.

Residents downwind were warned to remain alert into the night. "It can go from here to the ocean in a matter of two to three hours," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Authorities confirmed more than three-dozen mobile homes burned at the Marek Fire and TV news helicopter crews counted about 10 homes destroyed by the Sesnon Fire. More than 15 square miles were charred by both flames combined.

"It is a blowtorch we can't get in front of," said Los Angeles County fire Inspector Frank Garrido.

AP

A U.S. Forest Service truck drives past flames burning along Little Tugunga Road, in the Angeles National Forest, about 20 miles north of downtown Los Angeles on Sunday Oct. 12, 2008.

McCain: Lewis' remarks on campaign tone are unfair

AMERICA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—John McCain said Monday that it was unfair for Rep. John Lewis to compare the negative tone of the Republican presidential campaign to the atmosphere a segregationist fostered in the 1960s.

McCain suggested that the comments by the Georgia Democrat and veteran of the civil rights movement carry more weight than those of a Virginia Republican Party leader who compared Democratic rival Barack Obama to Sept. 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden.

"This is not just some obscure party official," McCain said in an interview aired by CNN. "And that's what's so totally unacceptable about it."

According to Time magazine, Virginia Republican Party Chairman Jeffrey M. Frederick recently told McCain volunteers in the state that Obama and bin Laden "both have friends that bombed the Pentagon."

McCain has repudiated similar past statements about Obama, but did not specifically address Frederick's comments in the interview.

"You have people in political campaigns on the outer most fringe on both ends of the spectrum," McCain said.

McCain and running mate Sarah Palin have said Obama failed to tell the truth about his relationship with 1960s radical William Ayers, and Palin has accused Obama of "palling around with terrorists," meaning Ayers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fla. congressman seeks probe after affair reports

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Democratic U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney, married with a child, declined to say Monday whether he had carried on an affair with a former aide and paid to keep her quiet, then called for an investigation by the House ethics committee into his own conduct. Mahoney issued his statement hours after ABC News reported on its Web site that he had agreed to pay $121,000 in March to a former mistress and staff member after being threatened with a sexual harassment lawsuit. Mahoney said he would be vindicated. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also called for an investigation. The network, citing unnamed current and former Mahoney staff members, said the congressman began his affair with Patricia Allen, 50, in 2006 while he was campaigning for Congress, promising to return morals to Washington. Mahoney won the race after former Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Foley resigned when it was revealed he sent lurid Internet messages to male teenage pages who had worked on Capitol Hill. Foley was cleared of criminal wrongdoing by state and federal authorities.

2nd out-of-state teen dropped at Omaha hospital

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A Michigan mother drove roughly 12 hours to Omaha, so she could abandon her 13-year-old son at a hospital under the state's unique safe-haven law, Nebraska officials said Monday. The boy from the Detroit area is the second teenager from outside Nebraska and 18th child overall abandoned in the state since the law took effect in July. "I certainly recognize and can commiserate and empathize with families across our state and across the country who are obviously struggling with parenting issues, but this is not the appropriate way of dealing with them, whether you're in Nebraska or whether you're in another state," said Todd Landry, who heads the state's Department of Health and Human Services' division of children and family services. There was no sign the boy was in immediate danger before he was abandoned early Monday, but an investigation into the boy's situation was still continuing, Landry said. The boy has been placed in an emergency shelter. Landry said the family doesn't appear to have ties to Nebraska and he wasn't sure if the family had sought help in Michigan first.

Cops: Texas teacher offered better grade for sex

ABILENE, Texas (AP)—A teacher initially placed on leave over a book controversy has been charged with trying to have sexual contact with three students, allegedly even asking one girl what she would do for a better grade. Kaleb Tierce, 26, was indicted Thursday on three counts of attempted improper relationship between educator and student, a third-degree felony punishable by two to 10 years in prison. Tierce, who no longer teaches, surrendered Friday and was released on $30,000 bond. The investigation began over a complaint that his ninth-grade class reading list contained a book about a murderer who has sex with his victims' bodies, but Tierce was not charged with providing harmful material to a minor, a misdemeanor. His attorney did not immediately return a call to The Associated Press on Monday. Taylor County sheriff's Sgt. John Cummins said Tierce allegedly asked one girl to come to his home under a "normal pretense," then allegedly kissed her and exposed himself to her. Tierce asked another girl "what she would be willing to do for a better grade" and asked a third girl for sexual favors, according to the indictment. All of the incidents allegedly happened in 2005.

Officials: Financial crisis can lead to violence

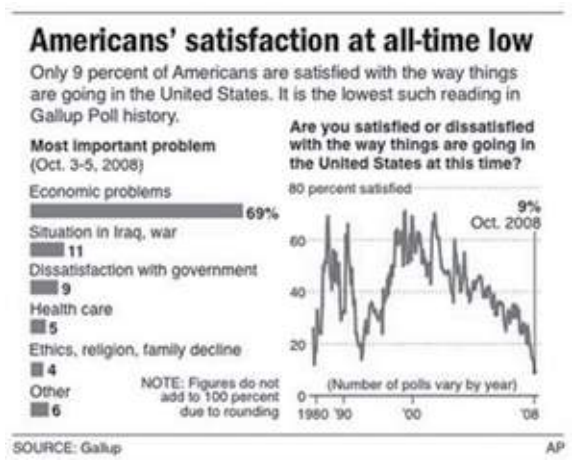
By KELLI KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

An out-of-work money manager in California loses a fortune and wipes out his family in a murder-suicide. A 90-year-old Ohio widow shoots herself in the chest as authorities arrive to evict her from the modest house she called home for 38 years.

In Massachusetts, a housewife who had hidden her family's mounting financial crisis from her husband sends a note to the mortgage company warning: "By the time you foreclose on my house, I'll be dead."

Then Carlene Balderrama shot herself to death, leaving an insurance policy and a suicide note on a table.

With nowhere else to turn, many people are calling suicide-prevention hot lines. The Samaritans of New York have seen calls rise more than 16 percent


Americans' satisfaction at all-time low
Only 9 percent of Americans are satisfied with the way things are going in the United States. It is the lowest such reading in Gallup Poll history.
Most important problem (Oct. 3-5, 2008)
Economic problems 69%
Situation in Iraq, war 11
Dissatisfaction with government 9
Health care 5
Ethics, religion, family decline 4
Other 6
NOTE: Figures do not add to 100 percent due to rounding
Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?
80 percent satisfied
9% Oct. 2008
60
40
20
0
(Number of polls vary by year)
1980 '90 '00 '08
SOURCE: Gallup
AP

across the country, authorities are becoming concerned that the nation's financial woes could turn increasingly violent, and they are urging people to get help. In some places, mental-health hot lines are jammed, counseling services are in high demand and domestic-violence shelters are full.

"I've had a number of people say that this is the thing most reminiscent of 9/11 that's happened here since then," said the Rev. Canon Ann Malonee, vicar at Trinity Church in the heart of New York's financial district. "It's that sense of having the rug pulled out from under them."

Study: Peers, not profs, influence student views

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

On issues such as abortion, gay marriage and religion, college students shift noticeably to the left from the time they arrive on campus through their junior year, new research shows.

The reason, according to UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, isn't indoctrination by left-leaning faculty but rather the more powerful influence of fellow students. And at most colleges, left-leaning peer groups are more common than conservative ones.

After college, students—particularly women—move somewhat back to the right politically.

The research is the latest of several efforts by academics to lend analytical rigor to an emotional debate. Overall, college faculty lean left politically, but there's sharp disagreement on whether they impose their views on students. The UCLA researchers are among several social scientists who have tried to undermine the argument that students respond strongly to their teachers' opinions.

Overall, students were nearly as likely after three years of college to call themselves "conservative" or "far-right," according to findings, and only somewhat more likely to call themselves "liberal" or "far left."

On specific policy questions, they moved to more liberal positions.

Asia

Tainted milk, a baby's death and lawsuit in China

XINXING, China (AP)—Heartbroken at the sudden death of their baby boy, the Yi family struggled to forget what they thought was a tragic twist of fate. They burned his clothes, toys, everything but a single photo and the baby formula he drank.

Then health officials suddenly arrived at the family's rural home last month with shocking news: Milk contaminated by an industrial chemical might have killed their son. On Monday, the Yis filed a lawsuit against the company at the heart of the scandal - the first court action by a family of a child who died.

Unrecognized at the time, 6-month-old Yi Kaixuan's death in May made him among the first victims in what would become a nationwide scandal. It would be another four months before the dairy, Sanlu Group Co., revealed there was a problem, and the government later confirmed there was widespread contamination of China's milk supply. Four infants have died and tens of thousands of children were sickened.

"I have no idea how any of this happened," Yi Yongsheng, the baby's slight, soft-spoken father, told The Associated Press on Sunday as he ran his fingers through his hair.

His wife, Jiao Hongfang, crouched outside in the courtyard cooking silently. She had collapsed in grief at her son's death and again in September when officials came with news of the tainted milk.

"She doesn't want to face this anymore," Yi said.

AP

Yi Yongsheng shows a photo of his deceased infant son with his grandfather, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008, at his Xinxing home in China's northern Gansu province.

The scandal is one of the worst tainted food crises in China in years. It has exposed shoddy practices in the booming dairy industry and raised questions about when the government first knew dairy products were contaminated with melamine, a chemical used in making plastics and fertilizers. Unscrupulous suppliers are suspected of adding it to watered-down milk to mask the resulting protein deficiency in quality tests.

Sanlu - a state-owned company whose products were the most heavily tainted - is now largely defunct, with the Xinhua News Agency reporting Monday that several other companies were vying to scoop up its assets.

Worst affected, however, have been China's poor, who turned to Sanlu products because they were less expensive.

In places like Xinxing, a town of brick and packed-earth houses surrounded by corn fields in the roughly terraced hills of western China, families have little. Yi spends most of the year working construction jobs in one of China's largest cities, Xi'an, while Jiao tends their small plot of land. The family makes about $580 a year.

The baby boy was their second child; they have a 5-year-old daughter. China's strict family planning rules allow many rural Chinese to have a second child in order to try for a boy, in a nod to traditional preferences for male heirs.

Infant formula for the baby was expensive but necessary. Jiao's breast milk wasn't enough, Yi said, so they started supplementing with milk powder. By his second month, formula was all the infant was fed. They thought the formula was healthy, and Sanlu was a brand with a good reputation.

"And it was just a little cheaper than the others," Yi said - $2.60 for a package that would last three or four days.

But on April 20, the baby wouldn't stop crying and had problems urinating. Jiao took him to the village clinic, but they couldn't pinpoint a problem.

Alarmed, Yi left his construction job and returned home. The family headed for the Gansu provincial capital, Lanzhou. On April 30, they took the baby to two city hospitals. Doctors were stunned, Yi said. They said they'd never seen a child with so many kidney stones, and the situation was critical.

A frenzy of testing followed, and the bills piled up past $145. The parents didn't sleep all night, waiting.

Around noon the next day, a doctor came to tell them their baby had died.

No one at the time, the doctors included, seemed to link the kidney stones and the infant formula.

Terrible luck, the family decided. In keeping with local custom that treats the death of a child so young as a tragedy best quickly forgotten, they burned everything. They kept a single photo of the child - shown with his grandfather during Chinese New Year in February - and the infant formula. It was a luxury and could be used for another child. There was no funeral.

"Burning those things was like walking away," Yi said. "To keep looking at them and remembering would be too sad."

The family did their best to forget the boy, until Gansu provincial health officials arrived in mid-September. They asked many questions and took samples of the baby formula, then told the family to wait - they would call later with information.

Since then, the family hasn't heard a word

The Gansu provincial health department declined comment, its spokesman saying they do not give telephone interviews.

Yi only considered undertaking legal action after a friend contacted a Shanghai-based lawyer who'd grown up in the nearby city of Tianshui.

Attorney Dong Junming took the case without charge and started adding up the damages: $6,700, which Dong estimates equals 20 years of the average Gansu farmer's salary; $146,000 for emotional damages.

"Frankly? Sanlu won't pay out that much," Dong said Sunday at a cafe in Lanzhou, where he was making final preparations for filing the lawsuit. "But we think this situation is really shocking, so we're going to ask."

N. Korea to resume nuclear dismantlement

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea planned to resume dismantling its nuclear program Tuesday for the first time in two months, days after the United States removed the communist regime from a terrorism blacklist as a reward under a disarmament pact.

Pyongyang has told the International Atomic Energy Agency that it would restart work to disable the Yongbyon nuclear reactor and allow international inspectors to resume their activity. The plans were outlined in a restricted document to the agency's 35 board members that was obtained by The Associated Press.

Separately, IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said agency inspectors "will also now be permitted to reapply the containment and surveillance measures at the reprocessing facility." That meant agency seals taken off the plant and monitoring cameras recently removed at the North's orders would be restored.

Two months ago, North Korea stopped disabling Yongbyon in anger over U.S. demands that Pyongyang accept a plan to verify its accounting of nuclear programs as a condition for removal from a blacklist of countries accused of sponsoring terrorism.

China jails Tibetan monks convicted in bomb blast

BEIJING (AP)—Eight Buddhist monks convicted of bombing a government building in Tibet during an anti-government uprising in March have been sentenced to prison, two of them for life, a judge said Tuesday.

The monks were sentenced after being convicted of setting off a bomb at the building in Gyanbe township, said Gang Weilai, the judge who presided over the case at the People's Court in Chamdo, a Tibetan prefecture.

Gyanbe is about 855 miles east of Lhasa, Tibet's capital, where peaceful protests against Chinese rule erupted into violence in March.

Gyurmey Dhondup and Kalsang Tsering were sentenced to life in prison while the others received sentences between five and 15 years, Gang said in a telephone interview. He said the monks did not appeal their sentences.

"We were first going to charge them with the crime of separating the nation, but eventually the charge was changed to the crime of causing an explosion," Gang said, declining to explain the decision.

Gang referred all questions to the Supreme Court, the country's highest court. Telephones were not answered at the court Tuesday afternoon.

The London-based Free Tibet Campaign said the monks were sentenced on Sept. 23, but it was not made public, a common practice in China for sensitive cases. Gang refused to specify the date, saying only it happened "a few days ago."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cambodia: Thai troops retreat from disputed border

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Thai troops retreated from a disputed border area Tuesday, easing tensions after Cambodia's prime minister issued an ultimatum that the troops withdraw or face unspecified consequences. Cambodian army commander Brig. Gen. Yim Pim said all Thai troops in the area had retreated to their camp about half a mile from the contested territory some 90 minutes before the noon deadline set by Prime Minister Hun Sen. "The tense situation has now eased," Yim Pim told The Associated Press. A Thai army spokesman could not be immediately reached to confirm the withdrawal. Earlier Tuesday, Hun Sen had warned Thailand to pull back 84 troops from the area by noon. He accused the troops of crossing into Cambodian territory near the 11th century Preah Vihear temple, which has been a source of enmity between the two countries for decades.

Clashes in Pakistani tribal regions kill 51

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Clashes between Taliban militants and pro-government forces killed 51 people as fighting spread across Pakistan's volatile northwest tribal regions along the Afghan border, officials said Monday. The army media center in the restive Swat valley said security forces traded fire with insurgents the whole day in the area. The clashes killed 25 militants and two members of the security forces. Security forces fired mortar and artillery rounds at militants in the Charmang area of the Bajur region overnight, killing nine insurgents, government official Jamil Khan said. On Monday, pro-government tribesmen exchanged fire with militants in the Nawa and Kotkai areas of Bajur, tribal elder Nazi Jan said. Thirteen militants and two pro-government tribesmen were killed, he and Khan said. A government offensive in Bajur that began in early August has left some 1,000 people dead. It was launched as the U.S. pressured the government to crack down on militants in the restive border region where al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is believed to be hiding.

American man arrested in Pakistani border region

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A 20-year-old American man was arrested late Monday at a checkpoint near the Afghan border in a tribal region where Pakistani troops are fighting Taliban and al-Qaida militants, police said. Officers were investigating what the man was doing in the border area, which is believed to be a possible hiding place for Osama bin Laden and other foreign extremists, said one officer, Pir Shahab. He said the man—identified on his passport as Juddi Kenan—did not have permission to be in the region as is required by Pakistani law. He was arrested at a checkpoint trying to enter Mohmand agency, Shahab said. "He is holding an American passport, which shows him as a resident of Florida," Shahab said. Another police official, Marjan Khan at the station in Sarrokali, said the man was wearing traditional Pakistani clothes and appeared to be a civilian. "He has told us that he was a student at a community college in Florida, and wanted to enter the tribal region to see a friend." Khan said the man carried a laptop and a travelling bag, adding that he had been shifted to an unknown place for more questioning, also by intelligence agencies. A U.S. embassy spokesman said he had no information on the arrest.

World

Christians flee Iraqi city of Mosul after killings

BAGHDAD (AP)—Cars and trucks loaded with suitcases, mattresses and passengers cradling baskets stuffed with clothes lined up at checkpoints Monday to flee Mosul, a day after the 10th killing of an Iraqi Christian in the northern city so far this month.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but local leaders have blamed al-Qaida in Iraq, which maintains influence in the region despite an ongoing U.S.-Iraqi military operation launched in May.

The latest victim was a music store owner who was gunned down Sunday evening at work in an attack that left his teenage nephew wounded, according to police and a neighbor.

Farques Batool, in his 50s, had refused to join other Christians fleeing the city because he needed to care for his wife, a daughter, his mother and the family of his dead brother, his neighbor Raid Bahnam said.

Batool's family finally fled Mosul after his death, leaving his wounded nephew in the hospital.

With the killing of at least 10 Christians this month alone, according to police, thousands have abandoned their homes in Mosul to seek refuge in churches and with relatives in neighboring villages or in relatively safe Kurdish-controlled areas nearby.

Faraj Ibraham, a 54-year-old power station employee who moved in with relatives in the village of Burtulla, said he was worried about his two daughters who had to leave school.

"We left in a hurry and they forgot to bring even their books. It will be a heavy burden for them even if we get to return home soon," he said.

Islamic extremists have frequently targeted Christians and other religious minorities since the 2003 U.S. invasion, forcing tens of thousands to flee Iraq—although attacks slowed with a nationwide decline in violence.

The reason for the latest surge in attacks was unclear. But it coincides with strong lobbying by Christian leaders for parliament to restore a quota system to give religious minorities seats on provincial councils that will be chosen by voters before the end of January.

U.N. special representative Staffan de Mistura strongly condemned "the spike in violence that has targeted the Christian communities in recent days" and warned the attacks were seeking to "fuel tensions and exacerbate instability at a critical time."

Israeli official says Livni closer to PM post

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister-designate Tzipi Livni's Kadima Party initialed a partial agreement Monday on bringing the Labor Party into a new governing coalition, but several issues remained to be settled before a formal pact, a Labor official said.

Livni also will need to attract support from smaller parties to form a new government to replace the one headed by former Kadima leader Ehud Olmert, who resigned as prime minister under the cloud of a corruption investigation.

If Livni fails to put together a coalition in the coming weeks, early elections would have to be called, further disrupting Israel's peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Lior Avnon, a spokeswoman for Labor, said her party's leader, Defense Minister Ehud Barak, and Livni would try to produce a final agreement at a meeting Tuesday evening. She did not give any details on the unresolved issues.

Labor would be Kadima's key partner in any coalition and a deal would make it easier for Livni to bring in the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party and reach a majority in parliament.

Kadima holds 29 seats in the 120-member Knesset, while Labor has 19. Shas has 12 and the other partner in the former coalition, the Pensioners Party, has 4. A grouping of those four would produce a 64-seat bloc.

Livni, the foreign minister in the previous government, received formal approval to try to form a new government Sept. 22, starting the clock to put together a Cabinet within 42 days. If there was no coalition at that point, elections would have to be held within 90 days.

Livni, 50, once an agent of the Mossad spy agency, has pledged to pursue peace with the Palestinians and Syria, following up negotiations started by Olmert. She would be Israel's first female prime minister in more than three decades, since Golda Meir.

Canada PM, rival go coast to coast before election

OTTAWA (AP)—Canada's Conservative prime minister and his Liberal rival crisscrossed the country Monday in a final day of campaigning, with voters concerned the ruling party is out of touch but also that the opposition's leader has trouble communicating in English.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who has had a tenuous hold on power since the 2006 election and is forced to rely on the opposition to pass legislation, called Tuesday's vote in hopes of winning the 155 seats needed for a majority in the 308-seat Parliament.

But Harper, the first G-7 leader to face election since the global credit crisis worsened, has been hurt by his slow reaction to the market meltdown, and that—among other missteps—may have cost him his bid for the majority.

Harper

Opponents are painting Harper as a right-winger who would reshape the landscape like a U.S.-style Republican.

"Just because someone's a Conservative doesn't mean he's George Bush," Harper told voters in Quebec on Saturday.

Harper's rival, Liberal leader Stephane Dion, hopped from the Atlantic coast province of New Brunswick inland to Quebec and then toward the city of Vancouver on the Pacific coast in a last minute blitz of campaign stops. He urged the divided left to vote for his party and dismissed talk he would step down as party leader if he loses.

Dion is a former professor from the French-speaking province of Quebec whose struggles to communicate in English have become an issue. Dion's English is heavily accented and awkward. He stumbles over words during speeches and his grammar is often mangled.

"It's a handicap that a lot of people won't forgive him for. It just causes a lot of people to turn off. They claim they don't understand him," said Robert Bothwell, director of the international relations program at the University of Toronto.

Campus Life

WWW.BULLYINGHURTS.COM

"Bullying Hurts" is a program that emphasizes youth mentoring and nonviolence. The program has been taught in some 300 schools in 37 states.

School bully problem? Send in the clown

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Marvin Nash—a.k.a. Starvin' Marvin—has been a professional rodeo clown for some 30 years, entertaining fans and protecting bull riders at great risk to himself. He routinely taunts bulls that outweigh him by more than 1,000 pounds.

"I just dare him to run over me," Nash says. "I'm just bullying the bull, I guess."

Yet his biggest fight may lie outside the ring, where Nash is confronting what to some is an opponent just as intimidating: childhood bullying.

Hoping to prevent the kind of violence that has erupted on school campuses in recent years, Nash has developed his "Bullying Hurts" program that emphasizes youth mentoring and nonviolence. The program has been taught in some 300 schools in 37 states.

"So many people think that bullying is just a rite of passage," Nash said. "Kids have feelings too. And so that's what we try to do is help them channel and be able to discuss and find a solution that works for them."

The goal is to help kids learn to handle bullying at a young age, so they are less likely to explode into violent retaliation later. In addition, young bullies might come to realize their antics are hurtful and stop before they become too destructive.

"That's the key to the whole thing, that violence is never the answer," Nash said.

Nash, who at 53 is close to retiring from the rodeo arena, is a fixture every summer at the annual Cowtown Rodeo near the small New Jersey community of Sharptown, just south of Philadelphia.

He grew up in Texas and took up clowning after realizing he wasn't a very good rodeo cowboy. A rodeo contractor nicknamed him "Starvin' Marvin" after Nash joked that if he didn't find work as a rodeo clown he'd starve.

"I've always liked the comedy part of it and that kind of stuff," said Nash, who speaks with an easy Texas drawl and a slight whistle since chipping a tooth in the ring.

Nash became interested in helping kids after speaking to his son's grade-school class about being a rodeo clown and discovering he enjoyed speaking to young people.

At first, he spoke to kids about drugs. But he switched to the anti-bullying campaign about four years ago after the wife of an acquaintance suggested school bullying was the root of many problems for youths.

Since the 1999-2000 school year, there have been 260 violent deaths associated with U.S. schools, according to statistics compiled by the National School Safety and Security Services Inc. A study released in 2002 by the Secret Service and the U.S. Education Department found 71 percent of violent school attacks were carried out by people who "felt persecuted, bullied, threatened, attacked or injured by others" beforehand.

The "Bullying Hurts" program, developed by Nash and his wife, Darlene, trains high school kids to mentor grade schoolers on dealing with bullying in their schools and community.

Nash's program stresses positive youth development and prevention. With the help of school administrators, he recruits and trains high school students to present the program to elementary students over six work sessions. The program teaches that bullying is a part of life, that violence against bullies is not a solution and tells kids who are bullied where they can get help.

Bullies are publicly identified bullies in the classroom. Instead, the class discussion sends a message to bullies that their behavior is hurtful and is based on an underlying cause, Nash said.

Nash charges a $1,500 fee to pay for manuals, videos, posters and other materials used in the classroom. He has lined up corporate support and government grants to help schools pay the fee and to produce public service announcements, a special radio program and a music video.

Celebrities including Charlie Daniels, Taylor Swift, Reba McEntire, and Trisha Yearwood - have lent their time for public service radio programs that highlight the negative effects of bullying.

Nash also is working to address the relatively new phenomenon of cyberbullying, in which kids use the Internet and cell phones to spread mean messages about others. His interest in the problem was partly inspired by a case in Missouri in which a 13-year-old girl committed suicide nearly two years ago after being harassed on the Internet.

"We have to start teaching these young kids that are getting on the Internet and writing these things to be careful about the words they're using," he said.

The success of "Bullying Hurts" is hard to measure, but Nash said he is encouraged by reports of kids helping each other. In Colorado, he said, the program helped stop a bullying problem on a school bus, when a group of high school mentors rode with the victim to school.

David Bartlett, assistant superintendent of the Cheyenne school district, said the program won't eliminate bullying in schools but is worth the investment because it educates kids on how to get out of bullying situations.

Life & Style

An intimate diner with Kendall Jackson

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles Cepeda and his wife Cathy and former Chamber president Alex Sablan are joined by friends at the Premium Wine Dinner with Kendall Jackson and Certified Angus Beef.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Pacific Trading Co. employees and friends smile for the camera.

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
EDITOR

Jeff Cook, the wine ambassador for Kendall Jackson, was explaining the finer points of Stonestreet Cabernet Sauvignon—a richly dark red wine with vivid licorice notes—when it happened.

Two tall Russian blondes in skintight cocktail dresses strode through the center of the Seaside Grill, their leggy, exotic beauty effectively shutting down every male brain within a five-meter radius.

The two, seemingly oblivious to their effect on the small crowd, brushed past Cook without a word and rejoined their companions at the balcony on the second floor of the Seaside Grill.

After a few seconds of dead silence, Cook cleared his throat and said, "As you can see, I do know when to shut up after being upstaged like that."

That effectively broke the spell, with everyone laughing and joining in the merriment. More wine was poured, the patter of conversation resumed, and Cook continued with his presentation on Kendall Jackson wines.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Jeff Cook, the wine ambassador for Kendall Jackson, left, and Wines and Spirits' Jessica Rosario.

It was a fitting moment for an excellent evening of fine wine, sumptuous food, and top-notch conversation. Called "A Premium Wine Dinner with Kendall Jackson and Certified Angus Beef," the event, held last Saturday evening, had all the hallmarks of an intimate dinner with friends and loved ones, with the second floor of the Seaside Grill providing the apposite setting.

Steve Balakrishna, F&B director for Pacific Islands Club, expressed himself happy with the dinner's success. "This is very successful. We're happy with the number of people who showed up. We were projecting to have 40 guests but we had more than that.

"The dinner was just beautiful and it's very nice for Jeff Cook to come out here all the way from California to help us with the presentation of the wines," he added.

The five-course dinner was also intended to showcase premium wines from the vineyards of Kendall Jackson, Stonestreet, Atalon and La Crema, as well as to show off the talent of PIC's new executive chef, Darren Farrell, who joined PIC just six months ago.

I was late for the dinner and got in just as they were serving the main entrée, Medallion of Certified Angus Beef Striploin, but judging from this alone, the entire dinner must have been outstanding. The mustard and blue cheese crust made for a creamy contrast to the juicy, melt-in-your-mouth goodness of the beef.

Farell, ever so modest, attributed the high quality of the food to the great ingredients he had on hand. "You can't do it without good ingredients. Of course, we also have tricks in the trade."

Paul Dujua, PIC's F&B administrative assistant, said the night began cocktail-style, with guests congregating at the balcony and being served carpaccio of veal and lightly smoked scallops, accompanied by Kendall Jackson Sauvignon Blanc.

The starter course, lightly cured and grilled reef fish served on a sweet potato and apple mash with parsley sauce, was washed down with generous servings of Kendall Jackson Chardonnay, while the third course, called "Slow Cooked Duet," was braised beef shank and twice-cooked Certified Angus Beef belly, accompanied by another wine, La Crema Pinot Noir.

Farrell rounded out the dinner with a single-plate medley of desserts consisting of orange jelly, semolina cake, orange cider, Orange Creation, and Panna Cotta. The accompanying wine was a nutty, flavorful Kendall Jackson Riesling.

Among those seen enjoying themselves were Pacific Trading Co. general manager Charles Cepeda and his wife Cathy, Rep. Tina Sablan and Glenn Hunter, former Chamber president Alex Sablan, and Wines and Spirits' Jessica Rosario. From time to time, Jay Santos of Triple J would go around the tables and have guest pick a lottery card for instant prizes.

Dujua said they are so buoyed up with the night's success that they are already planning to make it a quarterly event.

The Premium Wine Dinner was sponsored by Wines and Spirits, Triple J, Pacific Trading Co., and PIC.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Rep. Tina Sablan and PTC's Glenn Hunter.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

From left, Steve Balakrishna, F&B director for Pacific Islands Club; Jay Santos of Triple J; and PIC Executive Chef Darren Farrell.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Pacific Islands Club executive chef Darren Farrel, second from left, and F&B administrative assistant Paul Dujua, right, pose with the staff of Seaside Grill during Saturday evening's "Premium Wine Dinner with Kendall Jackson and Certified Angus Beef."

Johnston speaks about Bristol Palin, Obama, baby

WASILLA, Alaska (AP)—Levi Johnston, who's having a baby with Gov. Sarah Palin's daughter, can't believe all the things he's hearing. No, he wasn't held against his will on the campaign trail. No, he's not being forced into a shotgun wedding with 17-year-old Bristol Palin.

"None of that's true," Johnston, 18, said in a rare interview with The Associated Press. "We both love each other. We both want to marry each other. And that's what we are going to do."

Standing in the driveway of his family home in this small Alaska town, Johnston spoke about the rumors swirling around him.

The soft-spoken teenager discussed his relationship with Palin and how life has changed with fatherhood fast approaching. He agreed to talk despite the presidential campaign's advice in the days following Gov. Sarah Palin's nomination to avoid the media.

"They're not telling me anything right now," Johnston said as he checked his Blackberry. "It's pretty chill."

Not surprisingly, Johnston was a little shocked when he learned about Bristol's pregnancy, but he says he quickly embraced the prospects of fatherhood. The baby is due Dec. 18. Johnston has dropped out of high school to take a job on the North Slope oil fields as an apprentice electrician.

There's no word on how his future mother-in-law feels about Johnston's decision to drop out of high school. Last year, she made a point of trying to turn around the high dropout rate in their hometown.

"I'd remind the kids that no matter where they are in life—(maybe) in circumstances that probably aren't ideal—that there is no circumstance that they're in that is insurmountable or would necessitate them just giving up," Palin said.

Johnston hinted he's expecting a boy, but he declined to discuss baby names.

"I'm looking forward to having him," he said. "I'm going to take him hunting and fishing. He'll be everywhere with me."

AP

In this Sept. 3, 2008 file photo, Levi Johnston, left, is seen with his girlfriend Bristol Palin, daughter of Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

Johnston, a Wasilla heartthrob, said he wanted to set the record straight.

For starters, he said his much-maligned MySpace page was a joke—the one that claimed he said: "I'm a ... redneck," and "I don't want kids." Johnston said his friends created the page a few years ago and he had nothing to do with it.

Johnston said he has dated Palin since his freshman year in high school.

"We were planning on getting married a long time ago with or without the kid," he said. "That was the plan from the start."

While Johnston provided few details about next summer's wedding, the planning has started: A cousin will likely be his best man, and he has asked two hockey buddies, Ben Barber and Dane Wilson, to be groomsmen.

Barber doesn't think anyone pressured Johnston into marriage.

"If he thought it wasn't the right thing to do he probably wouldn't do it," he said.

Johnston is an avid hunter. He's dark haired, tall and muscular, sports a bit of stubble and drives a red Chevy Silverado truck. He'd be the perfect cover for Field & Stream.

He's bagged bears, sheep, elk, and caribou. Some of the antlers are scattered about his yard. Last July on a caribou hunt he lost a "promise" ring that Palin had given him. He said he decided to tattoo her name on the finger and not bother with more rings because he'd just lose them anyway.

Johnston said he wasn't forced to campaign with Palin's mother. Bristol Palin invited him and Johnston jumped at the chance. It was a whirlwind experience for Johnston, who was seated with the Palins at the Republican National Convention.

"At first, I was nervous," he said. "Then I was like, 'Whatever.'"

While Barber said his friend is a celebrity now, Johnston said it hasn't changed him.

"I'm still the same old boy," said Johnston. "I'm just a workin' man."

And now he's also about to become a family man.

"We're up for it. I'm excited to have my first kid. It's going to be a lot of hard work but we can handle it."

Wasilla hockey coach Bill Sturdevant, who was invited to the wedding, said he was sorry to hear Johnston wasn't going to return for his senior year of high school. But he said he believes Johnston, a talented hockey player, will find his way.

"He's a tough kid," Sturdevant said. "He's taking everything in stride."

What about Johnston's politics?

The young man said he wasn't an expert on politics by any stretch. Asked about Barack Obama, he replied: "I don't know anything about him. He seems like a good guy. I like him."

Johnston didn't register in time to vote, according to the Mat-Su Division of Elections Office in Wasilla. But he's still rooting for John McCain and Sarah Palin.

"I just hope she wins," he said. "She's my future mother-in-law. She better win."

Manmade waterfalls exhibit closes in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Four manmade waterfalls cascaded to a close Monday, ending an ambitious public art project that inspired both admiration and complaints.

Organizers estimate millions of visitors and residents saw the eye-catching installation during its 15-week run in the East River and New York Harbor.

"It has surpassed our expectations - in terms of artistic expression, public response and feat of engineering," Public Art Fund President Susan K. Freedman said.

The nonprofit group commissioned the $15.5 million piece, the city's biggest public art undertaking since "The Gates" in Central Park in 2005.

The exhibit got an environmental award from the city and garnered attention around the world, in part through hundreds of videos and photographs viewers posted online.

But the project also generated complaints from some neighborhood groups and businesses. They said salty mist from the waterfalls was damaging waterfront shrubs, trees and plants along Brooklyn Heights' popular promenade. In response, the Public Art Fund last month cut the exhibit's weekly hours in half.

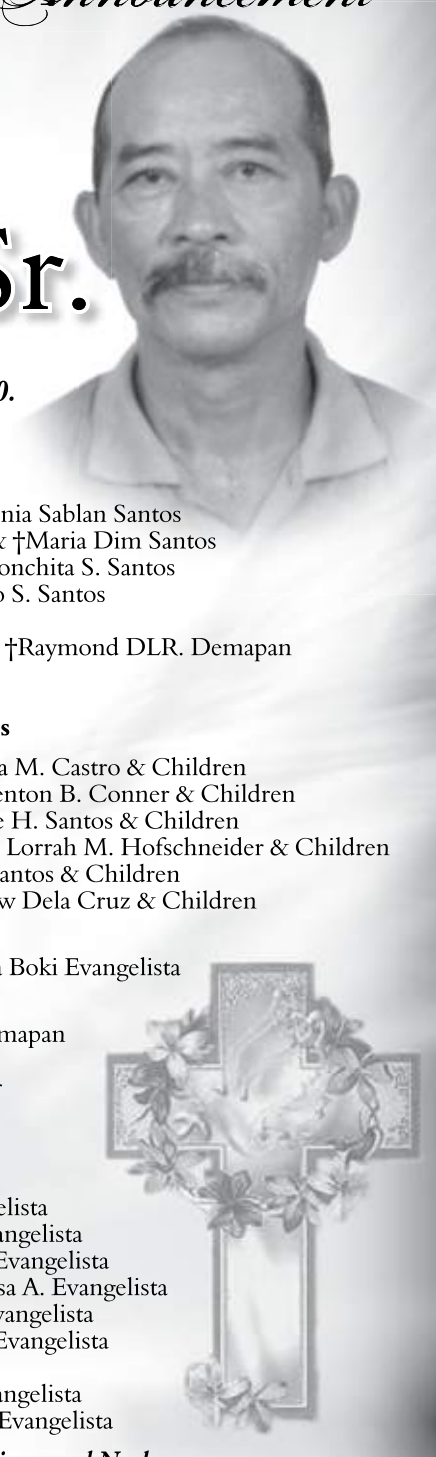
Individuals, foundations and corporations - including Mayor Michael Bloomberg's media company - donated a total of $13.5 million toward the cost of the exhibit, titled "The New York City Waterfalls." A state agency covered the rest.

Ranging from 90- to 120-feet tall, the waterfalls together spurted about 35,000 gallons of water per minute. They were created by Danish artist Olafur Eliasson.

"I hope they will continue to reverberate in people's minds even after they end, thus emphasizing that art in public spaces really matters," he said.

Death & Funeral Announcement

†Juan Sablan Santos, Sr.



of Tinian, was called to his eternal life on October 9, 2008 (Thursday) at the age of 60.

Predeceased by His:

Parents:	†Romaldo Masga & †Antonia Sablan Santos
Grand Parents:	†Juan Villagomez Santos & †Maria Dim Santos
Sisters:	†Isabel DLR. Lacaden, †Conchita S. Santos
Brothers:	†Jose S. Santos, †Francisco S. Santos
Brother In-Law:	†William Q. Maratita
Nephews:	†Gregorio S. Delos Reyes, †Raymond DLR. Demapan

Survived by His:

Wife: **Julita Evangelista Santos**

Children & Spouse: **Noel E. Santos** & Virginia M. Castro & Children
Marleen E. Santos & Trenton B. Conner & Children
Joseph E. & Frances Anne H. Santos & Children
Frank Peter E. Santos & Lorrah M. Hofschneider & Children
Juan Jr. E. & Dannica I. Santos & Children
Mary E. Santos & Mathew Dela Cruz & Children
Julian E. Santos

Father & Mother In-Law: Jose Reyes Sr. & Maria Boki Evangelista

Brothers & Sisters In-Law & Spouses:
Maria DLR. & Ramon Demapan
Pedro S. Santos
Mariana S. & Frank Oliver
Victoria S. Maratita
Soledad S. & Thomas Ito

Brothers In-Law & Spouses:
David B. & Ana M. Evangelista
Miguel B. & †Alicia B. Evangelista
Francisco B. & Noemi F. Evangelista
Augustin B. & Maria Teresa A. Evangelista
Antonio B. & Evelyn R. Evangelista
Cristopher B. & Miho K. Evangelista
Jose B. Evangelista Jr.
Martin B. & Nenita B. Evangelista
Alejandro B. & Francis V. Evangelista

He is also survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, and Nephews

Nightly rosary is being prayed at 8:00 p.m. at his residence in Turnkey Housing, Tinian. On Friday, October 17, 2008, his remains will be escorted at 7:00 a.m. from Tinian Health Center to his residence. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at San Jose Parish Church, Tinian. Burial will follow at Tinian Public Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers.
Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Mrs. Julita E. Santos and Children

BORJA FUNERAL HOME

Jonas Brothers to play Cowboys' Thanksgiving game

IRVING, Texas (AP)—The Jonas Brothers will perform during halftime of the Dallas Cowboys' nationally televised Thanksgiving Day game against the Seattle Seahawks.

The band will officially kick off the 2008 Salvation Army Red Kettle Christmas campaign at the November 27 contest. The fundraising drive continues through Christmas Eve.

Since its partnership with the Cowboys, which began in 1997, the annual Red Kettle campaign has raised more than $1 billion, helping the Salvation Army serve 30 million people each year nationwide. Last year, the campaign raised a record $118 million.

Previous halftime performers include Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Sheryl Crow, Destiny's Child, Toby Keith, LeAnn Rimes, Jessica Simpson, Randy Travis and Reba McEntire.

McCormick tells all about `Brady,' drug addiction

NEW YORK (AP)—Marcia, Marcia, Marcia.

Fans of "The Brady Bunch" know Maureen McCormick as Marcia Brady, the wholesome older sister on the classic sitcom about a blended family. But in her new memoir, "Here's the Story: Surviving Marcia Brady and Finding My True Voice," the actress writes of her romance with TV sibling Barry Williams, who played Greg Brady, dates with Michael Jackson and Steve Martin, and her many addictions.

Things became hot and heavy while McCormick and Williams were filming episodes in Hawaii.

"We couldn't hold back any longer," she writes in the book published by William Morrow. "It was our first kiss, and it was long, passionate and deep. It was wonderful, too, though as we continued to kiss and press against each other so closely that we could feel each other's body heat, a part of me - a tiny part, admittedly - said to myself, `Oh my God! I'm kissing my brother. What am I doing?'"

Now 52, McCormick - who endured a battle with drug addiction and depression - also discusses her dates with Martin and Jackson. It was several years after "The Brady Bunch" ended that McCormick went out with Martin, who had asked for the actress' phone number through friend Chevy Chase.

"I remember him being a very good kisser," McCormick writes about Martin. "But I was insecure and either high or spaced out (most likely both), and I didn't laugh at his jokes.

"Though Steve was too polite and confident of his talent to say anything, I'm sure my inability to carry on a normal conversation or respond intelligently put him off," she writes. "We never spoke again after that date. I've always regretted my behavior because he impressed me as an extraordinary guy. I would've enjoyed a second date."

AP

In this April 14, 2008 file photo, actress Maureen McCormick poses in the press room at the 2008 CMT Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

McCormick's time with Jackson was innocent. They met while she was starring on "Brady" and he was part of the Jackson 5.

"Once we went ice-skating and he held my hand as we glided around the rink," the book recalls. "I wondered if he might try to kiss me, but he didn't. After another outing, he did give me a kiss goodbye. But it was only a gentle peck on the cheek."

There were more men in McCormick's life, which spiraled downward into substance abuse and depression as she struggled to reconcile her Marcia Brady image of the girl next door with her private pain.

In the book, hitting stores Tuesday, she discusses cocaine binges and parties at the Playboy Mansion and the home of Sammy Davis Jr., an unwanted pregnancy and trading sex for drugs. McCormick was not available for comment on her book.

McCormick was 14 when "The Brady Bunch" debuted on ABC, running from 1969 to 1974. Despite her role as a sunny Miss Perfect, she grappled privately with anxiety and insecurity, the youngest of four children born to a mercurial father who abused and cheated on their mother.

"As a teenager, I had no idea that few people are everything they present to the outside world," she writes. "Yet there I was, hiding the reality of my life behind the unreal perfection of Marcia Brady. ... No one suspected the fear that gnawed at me even as I lent my voice to the chorus of Bradys singing, `It's a Sunshine Day.'"

When the series had its final bow, she took up a hard-partying lifestyle in Hollywood, using drugs including cocaine and Quaaludes. She struggled to regain her earlier success, landing some TV and movie roles, but developed a reputation for unreliability due to her addiction, even botching an interview with Steven Spielberg for a role in "Raiders of the Lost Ark" because she was high.

After interventions, stints in rehab and experimental therapies, McCormick began getting sober in 1985 when she married actor Michael Cummings, with whom she has a daughter, Natalie. She continued to fight depression through therapy, medication and the help of "Brady" cast mates.

McCormick, who is also a singer, starred on the Country Music Television reality series "Gone Country" and "Outsider's Inn." She also confronted her weight issues several years ago as the winning contestant on the VH1 reality show "Celebrity Fit Club."

As for her iconic role, "I'll always be struck by how much a part of people's lives Marcia is and always will be. But now I'm not bothered by the connection. It took most of my life, countless mistakes and decades of pain and suffering to reach this point of equanimity and acceptance," she says.

Bond girl rises from humble Soviet childhood

BERDYANSK, Ukraine (AP)—Olga Kurylenko, the model and actress who stars in the upcoming James Bond movie, began acting by playing Santa Claus' young wife in a school play in her Ukrainian hometown.

Teachers remember Kurylenko, the 28-year-old brunette who charms 007 in "Quantum of Solace," for the determination, drive and luck that turned her into a Bond Girl.

"She was such a talented girl," said her hometown piano teacher, Halina Kulchitska. "Even if she hadn't become James Bond's girl, she still would have gotten some big role."

Kurylenko grew up in this city of 140,000 on the Azov Sea in southeastern Ukraine, where monuments made from giant metal anchors dot the city center and middle-aged men spend their free time fishing along the main embankment, cigarettes in their mouths.

Raised by her mother, Marina, an art teacher, and her grandmother, a doctor, Kurylenko and her family lived in a three-room apartment not far from the city center. That was a luxury by Soviet standards, when many lived in communal flats, sharing the kitchen and bathroom with several families.

Today her crumbling five-story apartment building, where carpets, comforters and underpants are hung to dry in the courtyard and children play on rusting slides, is testimony to how far she's traveled since then.

In Moscow on Monday to promote the film, Kurylenko expressed incredulity over being a Bond Girl. "I still don't believe it and don't think that I realize it yet," she told Associated Press Television News.

In the movie, Bond (Daniel Craig) and Kurylenko's character, Camille, try to save Bolivia's water supplies.

"Camille is quite a strong woman, very independent. She carries a wound which comes from her childhood," said Kurylenko. "There is something very terrible that happened to her when she was a little girl and everything she focuses on is revenge connected to this event and that is her motivation in the movie."

Kurylenko's star began to rise at 16 when she was spotted by a model scout in the subway in Moscow, where she was on vacation. She moved to Paris to work in a modeling agency, then began a career as an actress.

Kurylenko got one of her first main roles after she joined the school drama class in the seventh grade, playing the young wife of Grandfather Frost, the local equivalent of Santa Claus.

After she was cast for the new Bond movie, Kurylenko's school was besieged by journalists and abuzz with all things related to her. Teachers even put her photos as a model and actress prominently on display at the school, but they were later taken down after parents of younger students complained the pictures were too revealing.

Kurylenko's drama teacher, Ina Kaminska, said her student simply got lucky.

"It's all great, just great, we are all very happy - she became a Cinderella—but nevertheless when she was in my class I didn't see that kind of future for her," the 70-year-old Kaminska said.

Artur Shevchenko, 16, who goes to the same school as Kuylenko did, said he has a crush on the actress.

"I've seen her photos online—they are not bad at all," he said with a laugh. "The girl is quite sexy—I think she will be OK for Bond. I think of all his girlfriends she will be one of the best. ... As for me, I wouldn't mind being Bond myself."

AP

In this undated photo released by Berdansk School No. 16, Olga Kurylenko, first row 2nd from right, the supermodel and actress who stars as a James Bond girl in the new 007 movie, is seen in a group photo with her fellow drama students. Ina Kaminska, the first drama teacher of a Kurylenko, is 2nd from left in the 2nd row. Teachers and friends remember Kurylenko for her determination, drive and luck that turned a humble Soviet child into a Hollywood star.

ASCAP honors Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Alan Jackson won songwriter/artist of the year honors for his hits "A Woman's Love" and "Small Town Southern Man" during the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers country awards Monday.

Other big winners were Dave Berg, songwriter of the year, and Rachel Thibodeau, country song of the year.

Reba McEntire won ASCAP's Golden Note Award, presented to songwriters, composers and artists who have achieved extraordinary career milestones.

Brooks & Dunn, LeAnn Rimes and Kelly Clarkson honored McEntire by performing some of her songs. McEntire herself surprised the crowd by singing one of her earliest hits, "(You Lift Me) Up to Heaven."

EMI Music Publishing won publisher of the year for songs including "How Long" (Eagles) and "Never Wanted Nothing More" (Kenny Chesney).

Songwriters including McEntire, Lyle Lovett, Buddy Miller, David Lee Murphy and Brent Rowan won the Silver Circle honor in recognition of 25 years or more of membership in the performance rights organization.

Janet Jackson cancels more concerts

AP

In this May 18, 2008 file photo, director Steven Spielberg is seen at the "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" press conference during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The doctor has again ordered Janet Jackson to postpone a return to her "Rock Witchu" tour.

Jackson was scheduled to resume her tour Monday night at the Turning Stone Resort in New York after canceling a show over the weekend in Connecticut. A message posted on the resort and casino's Web site stated the show had been canceled at the advice of Jackson's doctor.

She has since postponed several shows, including Thursday night's show at Madison Square Garden in New York. Promoters say the dates will be rescheduled.

No one is saying what is ailing Jackson, who was rushed to a hospital in Montreal before a concert in late September.

Jackson is on her first North American tour in seven years

In this June 2, 2008 file photo, singer Janet Jackson appears onstage during a taping of MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios in New York.

AP

Steven Spielberg rejoins Universal in DreamWorks deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks studio has signed on with Universal Pictures to distribute its films as his company parts ways with Paramount.

Under the seven-year deal, Universal will distribute up to six DreamWorks movies a year domestically and overseas, except for India, executives for both companies said Monday.

Spielberg made his early films, including "Jaws," for Universal, and his Amblin Entertainment production company remained based on the Universal lot even after Paramount acquired DreamWorks in 2006.

"Universal has always been my home base so this agreement starts a new chapter in what has been a long and successful association," Spielberg said in a news release. "While it feels great to come home again, it feels like I never left."

Universal will handle distribution in exchange for an 8 percent fee on revenues.

The deal had been anticipated as DreamWorks broke off from Paramount, where there had been ongoing friction over the costs of keeping Spielberg and his outfit there.

In a partnership with Reliance Big Entertainment of India, DreamWorks has lined up $1.5 billion to finance its future film slate. Reliance is handling distribution of DreamWorks films in India.

Remaining in charge at DreamWorks is Stacey Snider, who became chief executive officer in 2006. Snider previously was chairwoman of Universal Pictures.

"I really feel like it is a homecoming for Steven and Stacey," said Marc Shmuger, Universal Pictures chairman.

DreamWorks films already finished or nearing completion at Paramount, such as the dramas "The Soloist" and "The Lovely Bones" and next summer's "Transformers" sequel, still will be distributed by Paramount.

Actor Guillaume Depardieu dead at 37

PARIS (AP)—Guillaume Depardieu, the often-troubled son of renowned French film star Gerard Depardieu who gained praise for his own career as an actor, died Monday, hospital officials said. He was 37.

Guillaume Depardieu died at Raymond-Poincare hospital in Garches, west of Paris, from complications related to a sudden case of pneumonia, the Paris area hospitals authority said.

He had been rushed to the hospital late Sunday. Family lawyer Jean-Yves Lienard said the actor flew to France on Sunday from Romania, where he contracted a pulmonary illness while filming.

Guillaume Depardieu won the prize in 1996 as the most promising young actor at the Cesar awards—France's equivalent of the Academy Awards—for his role in the film "Les Apprentis" (The Apprentices).

AP

French actor Guillaume Depardieu poses during a photo call for the film "Don't Touch the Axe" at the 57th Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, in this Feb. 15, 2007 file photo.

"I loved him infinitely. He was a wonderful guy, an immense actor," said Alain Corneau, who directed both father and son in the 1991 movie "Tous les Matins du Monde" (All the Mornings of the World), on French radio RTL. The film marked the start of the younger Depardieu's professional acting career.

As a teenager and young adult, Guillaume Depardieu faced problems with drugs, alcohol and violence that led to convictions for traffic violations, insults and narcotics.

He had a public falling-out with his father in 2003. That year, Guillaume Depardieu had his right leg amputated to end years of pain from a bacterial infection that followed a motorcycle accident in 1996.

Funeral arrangements were not immediately available.

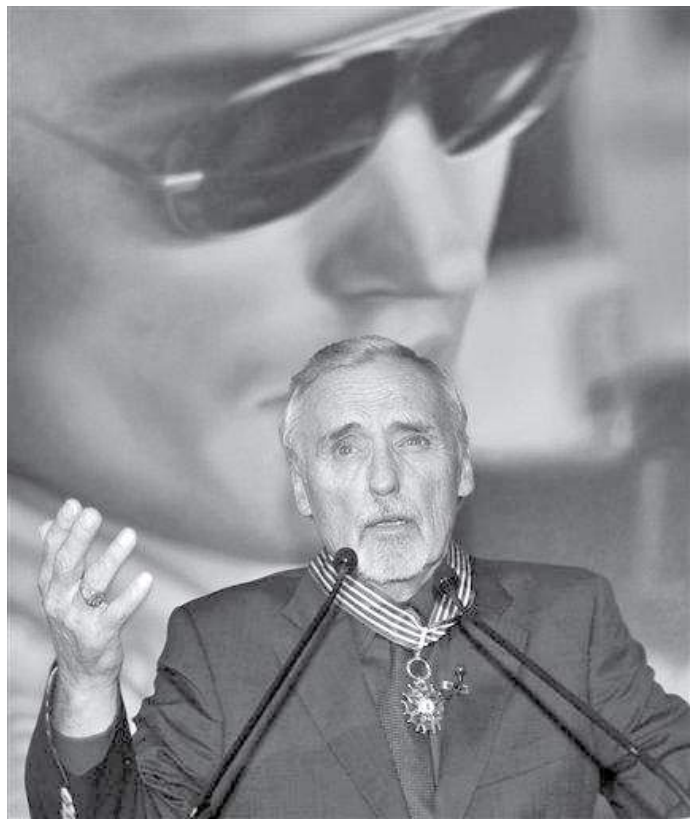
Hopper receives Legion of Honor in France

PARIS (AP)—Dennis Hopper has been named a commander in the French Legion of Honor.

The 72-year-old actor was visibly moved as he received France's most prestigious prize at a ceremony in Paris on Monday.

The Cinematique Francaise in Paris is opening an exhibit on Hopper this week that will run through January 19.

Hopper's screen credits include "Apocalypse Now," "Blue Velvet" and 1969's "Easy Rider," which he also directed.



U.S. actor Dennis Hopper, seen after being awarded the "Chevalier de la legion des Arts et des Lettres" in Paris. Monday, Oct. 13, 2008.

AP

Man's grief is overlooked after death of his stepson

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married a year and a half. I was childless; she came into the marriage with three sons. The middle son went to live with his father, and I bonded with the oldest (age 17) and the youngest (age 9). Both boys called me Dad, and I called them my sons.

Two months ago, the older boy, "Troy," was killed in a car wreck. Friends and family came to console "Cynthia," but not me. The only time they talked to me was to ask how she was doing. When it came time to plan the services, Cynthia and her family did everything. No one asked me a question or for my opinion.

Troy was my son, too—"step" or not. The pain of losing him is real and profound. I have tried to be there for Cynthia, but she has distanced herself from me. She has received cards, letters and phone calls, but I am having a difficult time dealing with the grief and loss, too. Why can't people realize that Troy was loved by both of us, not just by his mother?

IN PAIN IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR IN PAIN: Please know you have my deepest sympathy for the loss of your stepson. It's possible that you didn't receive more support because people—in the midst of their own grief—didn't realize you needed it. You may feel "distanced" from your wife because she is grieving so deeply she is unable to communicate.

I hope the two of you will join a grief support group. It may bring you closer again and bring you some degree of comfort. Your religious adviser should be able to help you locate one.

A group that has been mentioned in my column before—The Compassionate Friends—can also be helpful. Founded in 1969, it has 600 chapters and offers mutual assistance, friendship and understanding to families following the death of a child. Its Web site is www.compassionatefriends.org, and the toll-free telephone number is (877) 969-0010.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is "true forgiveness"? I said some terrible things to a friend in anger and didn't hear from her for a few weeks. Recently, I received an e-mail saying she "forgave" me but no longer wants to keep in touch, adding that it is important for her to know that I am happy.

I wrote back saying I still want to stay in touch and remain friends. I apologized profusely for my lapse in judgment, but she hasn't responded.

Abby, I thought forgiveness meant to absolve, to cease to feel resentment—to "wipe the slate clean." Am I wrong to feel that? Isn't she still holding a grudge against me? I realize it's up to her to communicate, but I'm confused how she can claim she forgives me while still harboring bad feelings. Can you help?

PERPLEXED IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR PERPLEXED: To forgive someone does not mean that you develop amnesia. While the woman you hurt may not be holding a grudge, she may consider you too "dangerous" to allow back into her life. May I offer a word of advice to you? Continue moseying on down the road of life, and in the future watch your mouth, or eventually you may find yourself friendless.

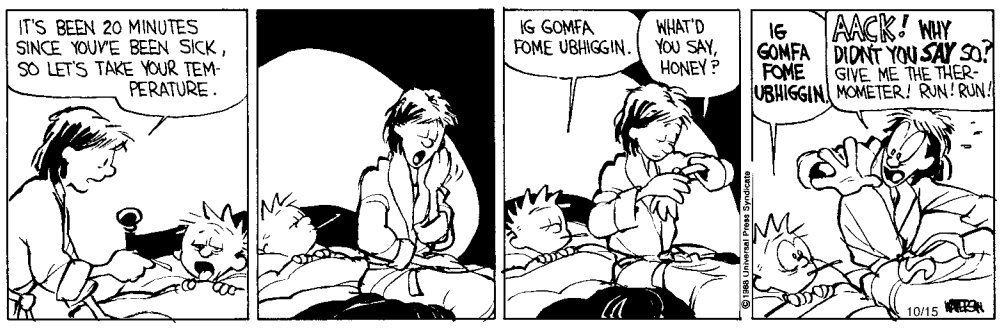
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IT'S BEEN 20 MINUTES SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SICK, SO LET'S TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE.
IG GOMFA FOME UBHIGGIN.
WHAT'D YOU SAY, HONEY?
IG GOMFA FOME UBHIGGIN.
AACK! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? GIVE ME THE THERMOMETER! RUN! RUN!
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10/15

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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JIM DAVIS 10-15
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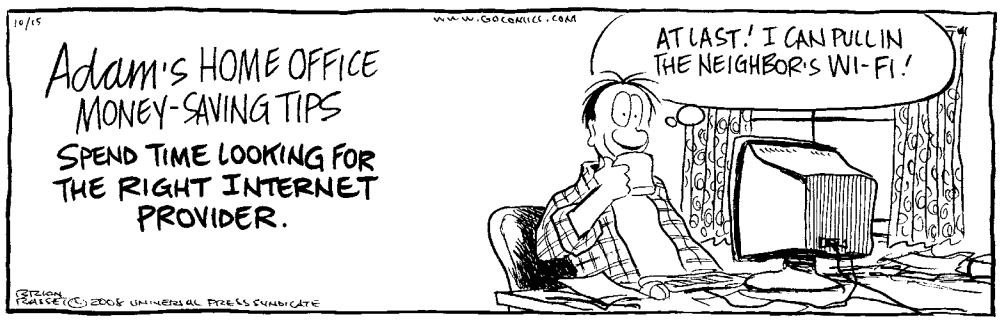
IT WAS ALL INNOCENT FUN, THOUGH
PHOTOS
THAT'S ME, ASLEEP, WITH A CHICKEN GLUED TO MY FOREHEAD
HANG ON, I'M WRITING THIS DOWN
PHOTOS
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset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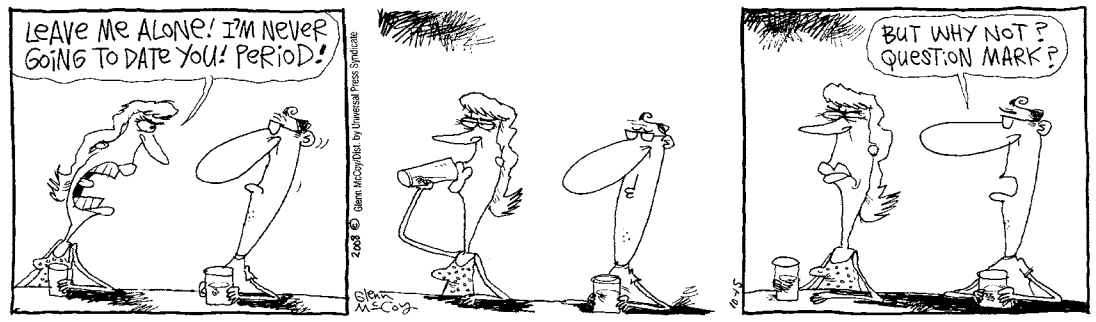
BRIAN BASSET (C) 2008 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M NEVER GOING TO DATE YOU! PERIOD!
2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
GLENN McCOY
BUT WHY NOT? QUESTION MARK?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Cheers" order
5 Cleo's slayer
8 Look lecherously
12 Needle case
13 Prohibit
14 Incursion
15 Grotesque carving
17 Raised
18 Sailing vessels
19 Like wet roads
21 Sleep phenom
22 Location
23 Gasoline stat
26 Nev. neighbor
28 Jeans material
31 Support group?
33 Romanian money
35 FDR is on it
36 Heart line?
38 Switch settings
40 Likely
41 Karma
43 Collection
45 Accommodated
47 Squat
51 Duel tool
52 Chickpea
54 Gangster's gal pal
55 Time of your life?
56 Celebrity
57 Race place
58 Tier
59 Rent

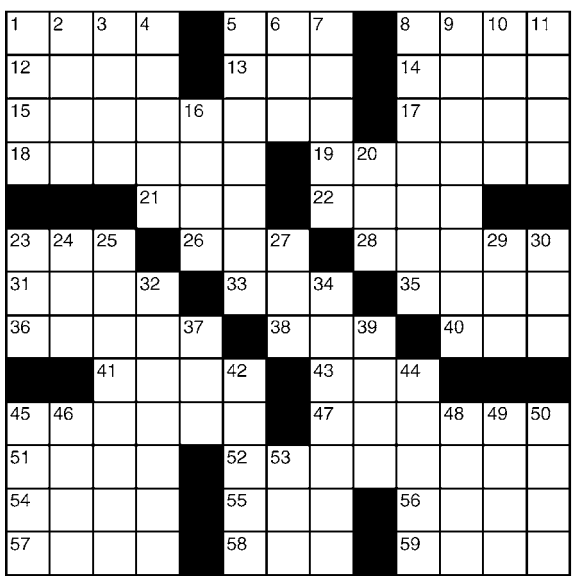
DOWN

1 Pleads
2 And others (Lat.)
3 Franc replacement
4 Severity
5 Immeasurably deep
6 "Erie Canal" mule
7 Iron
8 Traveled around the world?
9 Corsage flower
10 Told tales
11 Whirlpool
16 Oil cartel
20 Tease
23 Biz deg.
24 Yes voter
25 Jon Arbuckle's cat
27 Zodiac sign
29 Demonic tyke
30 Bumped into
32 Grand
34 Remove a lightbulb
37 Packed away
39 Belgrade dweller
42 Candice's dad
44 Raise a glass to
45 Half (Pref.)
46 "Once — a time ..."
48 "Do — others ..."
49 Despot
50 Gridlock noisemaker
53 In olden days

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	B	E	T	■	S	A	W	■	M	A	S	H
R	O	D	E	■	H	I	E	■	A	G	U	E
M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E	■	G	O	R	E
S	T	Y	■	O	F	T	■	A	N	G	E	L
■	■	■	M	O	T	■	E	L	I	■	■	■
C	R	E	A	M	■	B	A	F	F	L	E	D
B	O	R	G	■	H	U	T	■	I	O	T	A
S	T	A	D	I	U	M	■	O	C	T	A	D
■	■	■	A	V	E	■	A	D	O	■	■	■
D	O	L	L	Y	■	P	R	O	■	S	I	P
E	P	E	E	■	M	A	G	R	I	T	T	E
L	A	I	N	■	A	G	O	■	L	O	C	O
E	L	S	E	■	P	E	N	■	K	A	H	N

Yesterday's answer 10-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paige Davis, 39; Sarah Ferguson, 49; Emeril Lagasse, 49; Penny Marshall, 66

Happy Birthday: Don't miss out on something that could potentially change your life or your direction because someone is selfish or has other plans for you. Consider making a residential move or taking on a little bit different lifestyle. Having more people visit, living with someone or even getting a pet should be implemented in some capacity. Your numbers are 14, 15, 19, 26, 28, 35, 39

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Think matters through before you decide to take a leap of faith. A unique partnership can help you become more secure and confident. However, remember, one who is demanding and controlling will hold you back. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You stand to make some fabulous new connections, moves and accomplishments if you are not slow out of the starting gate. Recognizing your talent and when to make your move will be what will facilitate your success. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may want to consider making a move before one is forced on you. Don't let others in on what you are going to do. Financial loss is possible if you brag, exaggerate or promise more than you can deliver. Intimacy with someone off-limits will stifle your career. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't listen to bad advice. Make up your own mind. A love relationship is about to change in a positive way if you just let things unfold naturally. You will pick up valuable information from someone very different. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't push your luck when it comes to dealing with family, your lover or anyone else who means a lot to you. Focus on work, money and doing what you can to be successful and put your personal life on hold for now. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Someone may want to take something from you. Do not donate, loan or spend too freely. Open your mind to new alternatives that complement what you already have going for you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Before you decide to do something that may influence your financial situation, get sound advice from someone who is conservative and not likely to spend frivolously or invest unwisely. Avoid mixing emotional matters with money matters. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You will be preoccupied with an emotional issue. A relationship with someone you've known for a long time will change. Don't get other people involved in your private affairs or your close friends or relatives in your business ventures. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A fast decision to help or donate to something will leave you short of time and cash. A course regarding how to manage your business, money or your current profession will help you excel. Don't be afraid to do things differently. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Setting new rules at home and at work will enable you to be more productive, leaving more time to enjoy the pleasures of life. Travel will be a waste of time; far more will be achieved if you work from home. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't be fooled by someone promising you too much. Read between the lines and ask what this person needs from you and how you can make it work to your advantage. Anger and emotional fuss must not be allowed to surface. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you have caused someone grief, or vice versa, you have to confront the situation. Unless you can get past your grudge, you can't move forward successfully. Deal with issues that are clouding your vision. Face the truth. ✪✪✪✪

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3		1		4		
	2		7		9		8	
	7						6	
		1	3	2	4	9		
			9		6			
			1		5			
	1	5				7	4	
2								8
	8	9	6	3	7	1	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	2	4	7	8	6	5	1
4	6	1	3	2	5	7	8	9
5	7	8	1	6	9	2	4	3
2	8	6	7	9	4	1	3	5
7	3	9	2	5	1	8	6	4
1	4	5	6	8	3	9	2	7
8	1	4	9	3	2	5	7	6
6	5	3	8	1	7	4	9	2
9	2	7	5	4	6	3	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FRETTE LINENS **Solution: 6 letters**

A	S	E	L	B	A	T	E	X	T	U	R	E	L	S
E	C	N	E	L	L	E	C	X	E	B	V	A	S	A
V	O	C	B	P	A	M	P	E	R	I	N	G	E	P
I	L	S	E	L	E	E	F	I	T	O	M	L	D	S
S	L	O	S	S	A	L	C	A	I	E	E	R	A	T
N	E	F	T	A	S	H	R	T	T	T	U	E	H	N
E	C	T	U	E	T	O	I	T	N	C	R	S	S	E
P	T	N	N	F	C	D	R	E	I	R	O	T	N	M
X	I	A	I	E	A	I	I	I	T	U	P	A	O	R
E	O	G	D	R	V	L	R	H	E	I	E	U	S	A
C	N	E	T	S	C	O	T	P	U	S	A	R	A	G
N	S	L	T	Ⓜ	R	A	W	Y	Q	E	N	A	E	L
A	W	E	Ⓐ	R	B	B	R	A	N	D	S	N	S	O
R	S	Ⓣ	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L	I	T	Y	O
F	Ⓢ	E	U	Q	I	T	U	O	B	F	H	S	A	W

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Yesterday's Answer: Campaigns

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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of:	)	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0625
I.M.K.S. (Child's NEW Name – INITIALS ONLY), Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: Maria Camacho Santos	)	
Petitioner(s)	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 6, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Victorino, Stairs lift Phillies over Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shane Victorino and the Philadelphia Phillies struck back with long balls rather than beanballs to move within one win of the World Series.

That's the way they've played it all year.

After ducking a pitch thrown over his head the previous day, Victorino and much-traveled pinch-hitter Matt Stairs delivered two-run homers in the eighth inning Monday night, lifting the Phillies to a 7-5 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers for a 3-1 lead in the NL championship series.

Lefty ace Cole Hamels, who won the series opener, can pitch the Phillies to their first World Series since 1993 in Game 5 on Wednesday night. He'll be opposed by Game 2 loser Chad Billingsley.

"This was the biggest game we've won so far," Philadelphia manager Charlie Manuel said. "But the next one is even bigger. That's kind of how we look at it."

Brad Lidge got his first four-out save for the Phillies, remaining perfect this season. It was the first time the visiting team has won a game in 12 meetings between the clubs this year.

After squandering a pair of leads, Manny Ramirez and the Dodgers have a tough task ahead. Only 11 teams in major league history have come back from 3-1 deficits to win a best-of-seven postseason series—two in the NLCS.

There were no brushback pitches or other trouble Monday night, unlike Game 3 when the benches and bullpens emptied in the third inning, moments after Dodgers starter Hiroki Kuroda threw a pitch over Victorino's head in retaliation for Philadelphia's high-and-tight pitches earlier in the series.

Victorino was one of seven people fined Monday for their conduct during the near-scuffle.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Shane Victorino hits a two-run home run to tie the game against Los Angeles Dodgers during the 8th inning in Game 4 of the National League baseball championship series Monday, Oct. 13, 2008, in Los Angeles.

With a runner at first and one out in the eighth, Victorino lined Cory Wade's first pitch into the right-field bullpen to tie the game at 5.

"My emotions obviously kind of got to me last night," the plucky Victorino said. "But going into today's game you turn the page and you forget about it. It was just going out there, trying to get a win and getting one step closer to the World Series. But it's still far from over."

After a two-out single by Carlos Ruiz, manager Joe Torre called on closer Jonathan Broxton, the seventh Los Angeles pitcher. Broxton tried to throw a 3-1 fastball past Stairs, and the 40-year-old left-handed hitter drove it more than halfway up the right-field pavilion to put the Phillies ahead.

That was just what Stairs intended.

"My whole career, even back in the early days, my approach was try to hit the ball out of the ballpark," he said. "And it's something I enjoyed doing. In batting practice, I try to hit every ball out of the ballpark. I'm not going to lie, it's fun. I try to hit home runs and that's it. I'm not going to hit a single and steal second base. So I think the biggest thing is to get up there, swing hard and elevate."

Broxton allowed only two homers in 69 innings during the regular season. This one was a no-doubter the moment it left Stairs' bat.

"I fell behind in the count and made a mistake over the plate and he cashed in," Broxton said. "He's a home run hitter. You've got to wipe it out and get ready to play them again."

Stairs has played for 11 teams in his career. Philadelphia picked him up from Toronto on Aug. 30.

The Phillies hit an NL-leading 214 homers during the regular season and have nine in eight playoff games, good for 17 of their 35 runs.

Lidge, the Phillies' sixth pitcher, earned his fifth postseason save in five chances - but it wasn't easy.

A perfect 41-for-41 in save opportunities during the regular season, Lidge entered a game in the eighth in a save situation for the first time this year when he came in with two outs and nobody on. Ramirez greeted him with a double, and Russell Martin struck out but reached first on a wild pitch before James Loney flied out.

Lidge retired the side in order in the ninth, making the Phillies 85-0 when leading after eight innings this year, including six wins in the postseason.

"It's amazing," Lidge said. "That speaks a lot about our hitters and how much they believe in themselves and the talent they have to come back."

Torre said he wouldn't have handled his bullpen any differently.

"We just didn't get the job done," he said. "Cory Wade's numbers against left-handed hitters this year have been really good. He threw a breaking ball and it stayed up and Shane just knocked the hell out of it."

Torre canceled the Dodgers' workout on Tuesday.

"These guys are fighting their hearts out, and just I told them to be back here on Wednesday to be ready to play baseball," he said. "We have to win the remaining games. We can only do it one at a time. I sense we'll be back right here with the right attitude."

The Dodgers scored twice in the sixth for a 5-3 lead. Casey Blake, who struck out in his first two at-bats, greeted reliever Chad Durbin by hitting a 1-2 pitch over the left-field wall for his first postseason homer.

Juan Pierre, making his first start of the postseason, followed with a double and pinch-hitter Matt Kemp walked. Scott Eyre relieved and first baseman Ryan Howard threw wildly past first on Rafael Furcal's sacrifice bunt, allowing Pierre to score and putting runners at second and third.

Andre Ethier lined to first and, after Ramirez drew his second intentional walk of the game to load the bases, second baseman Chase Utley snared Martin's liner and turned it into a double play.

The Dodgers took a 3-2 lead in the fifth, scoring twice with Ramirez delivering a tying single. He is 7-for-8 with a homer and seven RBIs with runners in scoring position during the playoffs.

The Phillies tied it in the sixth when Howard scored from third on Chan Ho Park's two-out wild pitch.

Lowe, pitching on three days' rest for the fifth time in his career, allowed six hits and two runs in five innings. Blanton also went five innings, giving up seven hits and three runs.

Rays bash Red Sox 9-1 to take 2-1 ALCS series lead

BOSTON (AP)—B.J. Upton, Evan Longoria and the rest of the Tampa Bay Rays are bashing their way through their first trip to the playoffs. Upton and Longoria homered off a suddenly shaky Jon Lester, and the power-packed Rays cleared the Green Monster four times to beat the Boston Red Sox 9-1 Monday for a 2-1 lead in the AL championship series.

Rocco Baldelli and Carlos Pena also sent shots over Fenway Park's famous left-field wall as Tampa Bay tied the ALCS home run record. Behind Matt Garza's pitching, the Rays put the defending World Series champions in a postseason hole for the first time since they overcame a 3-1 deficit against Cleveland last year to win the pennant.

"Three-run homers are nice to get. We were very fortunate," Rays manager Joe Maddon said.

The Rays also hit hard on the basepaths. Carl Crawford bowled over Boston catcher Jason Varitek on a play at the plate—there was no immediate reprisal in a matchup between teams that have tangled in the past.

Garza, the only Tampa Bay pitcher to lose in the first-round series against the Chicago White Sox, made an early 5-0 lead stand up. He held the Red Sox scoreless through six innings before they scored in the seventh.

Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield faces Andy Sonnanstine in Game 4 of the best-of-seven series on Tuesday night.

Upton, whose shallow sacrifice fly in the 11th inning won Game 2, hit a three-run homer in the third that sailed completely out of the park. It was his fifth home run of the playoffs—he hit only nine during the regular season.

"He did the same thing to the White Sox," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "We didn't locate, and he hit it a long way. Plays center field, steals bases, and he has a chance to get better, which is kind of scary."

Longoria added a solo shot later in the third. Baldelli had a three-run drive in the eighth and Pena hit a solo homer in the ninth.

After Garza left, J.P. Howell escaped a jam and pitched two scoreless innings. Edwin Jackson closed out the victory.

Lester, who hadn't allowed an earned run in four previous postseason outings—including last year's World Series clincher against Colorado—gave up four earned runs on eight hits in 5 2-3 innings. He gave up an unearned run on Varitek's passed ball in the second, then caused his own problems in the third.

Jason Bartlett singled and Akinori Iwamura doubled off the Monster before Upton hit a towering shot that cleared the wall and the Monster Seats atop it—his fifth homer of the playoffs. One out later, Longoria hit his fourth home run of the postseason, tying a rookie record set by Miguel Cabrera in 2003.

A lifetime Ray, Baldelli had never appeared in the postseason before. Pena is well-traveled—this is his fifth team, including the Red Sox—but he somehow managed to avoid appearing in a playoff game until arriving in Tampa Bay.

The four homers tied an ALCS record achieved nine times previously, most recently when the Red Sox hit four on Saturday.

"This kind of stuff doesn't happen very often," Baldelli said.

Upton hit three homers against Chicago in the first round and one against Boston on Saturday. Longoria also homered in Game 2, when the upstart Rays evened the series.

4 players, 3 coaches fined for NLCS fracas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Manny Ramirez and Dodgers teammate Hiroki Kuroda were among four players fined Monday by Major League Baseball for the Game 3 fracas between Los Angeles and the Philadelphia Phillies during the NL championship series.

Kuroda threw a pitch behind Shane Victorino's head in the third inning Sunday, apparently retaliation for Philadelphia's Brett Myers throwing behind Ramirez in Game 2. Benches and bullpens cleared, and plate umpire Mike Everitt immediately warned both teams. There were no ejections.

Kuroda was fined $7,500, Ramirez was docked $2,500, first-base coach Mariano Duncan got $1,000 and third-base coach Larry Bowa $500, Dodgers manager Joe Torre said.

Victorino was fined $2,500 and first-base coach Davey Lopes and reliever J.C. Romero $1,000 each, according to Phillies manager Charlie Manuel.

Asked about his penalty, Ramirez said, "That's fine."

"I don't care. It's worth it," Dodgers catcher Russell Martin said.

Torre had a much different opinion.

"I think it's ridiculous," he said before the Dodgers and Phillies played in Game 4. "I guess the time of year is what enhances the price. I'm not sure what kind of a message this was."

Ramirez raced in from left field and had to be restrained by Torre, among others.

"I tried (to grab Ramirez)," Torre said. "I was moved without much effort. I was just trying to get Manny's attention. I didn't want to lose him. He's usually pretty good at keeping it under control. He's a good teammate, this guy."

Torre said Kuroda, a 33-year-old rookie who pitched 11 years previously in the Japanese Central League, earned additional respect from his teammates.

"I don't think there's any question," Torre said. "He was a good teammate. Guys rally around good teammates. Nobody encourages anybody to hit anybody in the head. The game's changed. I think everybody's become a little more sensitive to it. I guess it's trying to keep the people who play on the field. (But) sometimes umpires don't read the game right. There's some people that can't translate it. People are going to get hit."

Torre did say he believed the umpires "did a good job yesterday."

Manuel said he thought the fines were excessive as well.

"That's coming down pretty hard with what happened," he said. "That's coming down harder than you would have thought. There was no fight and nobody got hurt. I guess it was the fact that some of them had to be restrained."

Browns stun Super Bowl champs Giants, 35-14

CLEVELAND (AP)—Through weeks of frustration, injuries and a near-quarterback change, the Cleveland Browns never lost hope in this season.

On Monday night, they may have saved it.

With quarterback Derek Anderson outplaying Eli Manning, Braylon Edwards making big catches and Eric Wright returning an interception 94 yards for a touchdown, the Browns won on Monday night for the first time since 1993, ending New York's 11-game road winning streak with a 35-14 win over the defending Super Bowl champions.

Anderson, whose job was in serious jeopardy just a few weeks ago and may have been down to one more loss, threw one of his two touchdown passes to Edwards, who announced his team's return to the NFL's prime-time weekday slot by performing a cartwheel and back flip during pregame introductions and then making the Giants look foolish.

In their first four games, the Browns (2-3) had shown no signs of living up to high expectations following a 10-6 season. They had dropped their first two games at home, lost three in a row overall and only a win over winless Cincinnati to show so far in 2008.

Now, they've got something to brag about.

"This is us," Anderson said. "These were the guys who made plays all last season."

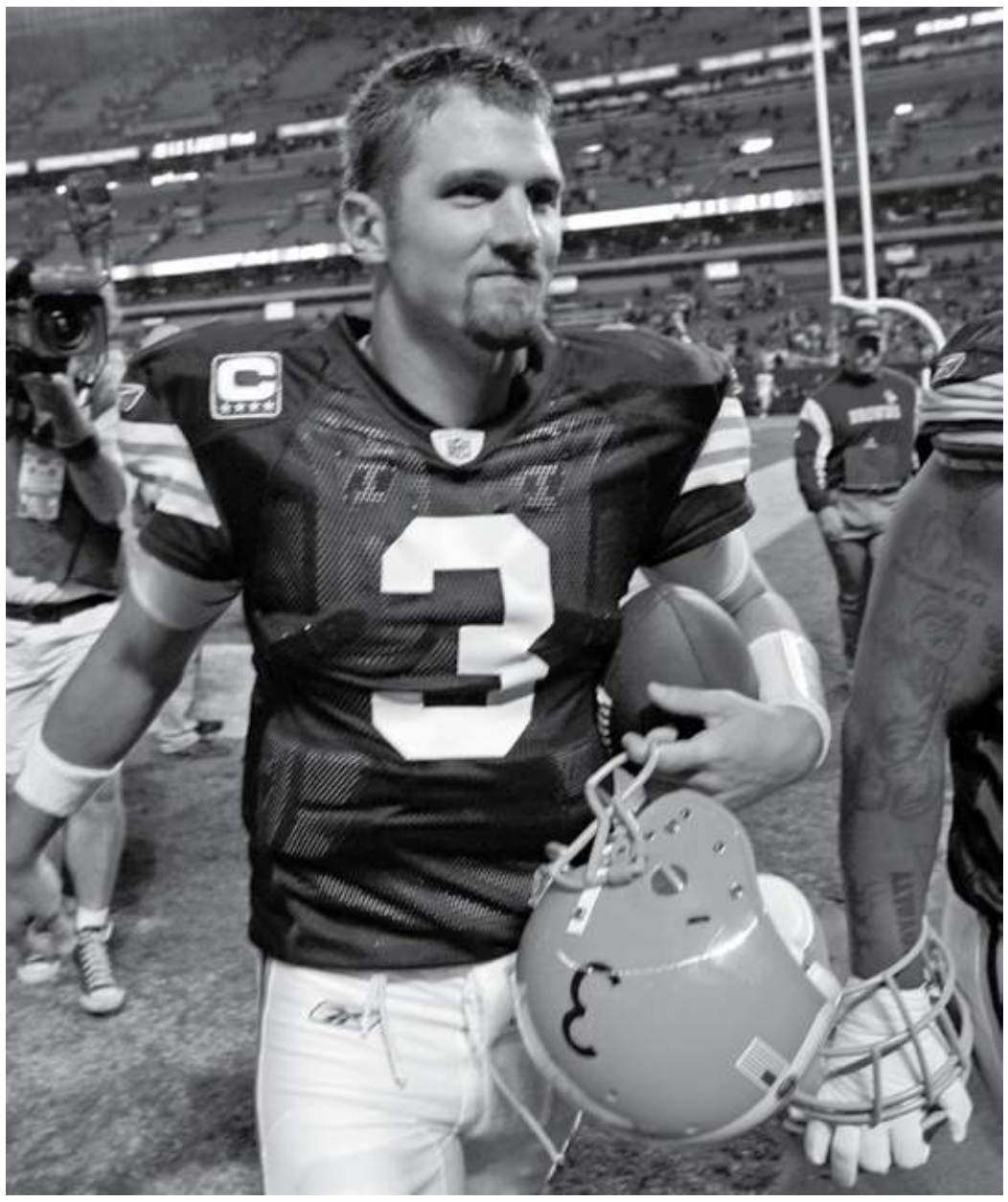
Anderson finished 18-for-29 for 310 yards, Edwards caught five passes for a career-high 154 yards and Jamal Lewis scored on a 4-yard run for the Browns, who handed the Giants (4-1) their first loss, leaving the Tennessee Titans as the NFL's only unbeaten team.

Manning was picked off three times and the Giants, so dominant through their first four games, were roughed up by the Browns.

In the closing minutes, Browns fans chanted "Over-rated" at the high-profile New Yorkers.

Aside from some more silly penalties, the Browns were superior to the Giants, who had reeled off 11 straight wins—12 counting the Super Bowl—outside of New Jersey since Week 1 last season. But Manning was not himself and New York, which embarrassed Cleveland during the exhibition season, missed an opportunity to open a two-game lead in the brutal NFC East.

"I threw three interceptions," Manning said. "That's unacceptable. That's not the way we win games. You're going to lose a game every once in a while, but we don't like the way we played. That's what's disappointing."



AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Derek Anderson heads off the field after the Browns' 35-14 win over the New York Giants in an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 13, 2008, in Cleveland.

Edwards' 11-yard TD reception on the first play of the fourth quarter gave the Browns a 27-14 lead, and he punctuated it with a reverse dunk over the goal post. The score capped an 87-yard drive which was bogged down by five Cleveland penalties. In all, the Browns went 117 yards on the drive.

"Forward, backward, forward, backward," said tight end Steve Heiden, who had five catches while starting for injured Pro Bowler Kellen Winslow. "At least we got in there."

The Giants then drove to the Cleveland 9, but on second-and-4, Manning locked onto wide receiver Amani Toomer, allowing Wright time to dart in front, make the interception and tiptoe down the sideline to the end zone. It was a satisfying turn for Wright, who was burned twice by the Giants during the Aug. 18 matchup.

"He held the ball a little longer and that allowed me to make a play," Wright said. "I tried to give myself some room so I could stay in bounds and I lucked out."

While Browns fans danced in the aisles, Anderson hit Edwards for the 2-point conversion to put the Browns ahead by 21.

"This springboards us into our second season," Edwards said. "The first three losses are over. We have 11 games left to play like we did tonight."

Manning went 18-of-28 for 196 yards and threw a 22-yard TD pass to Plaxico Burress, who was back after serving a one-game suspension for violating team rules.

Moments after New York went up 7-3 on Brandon Jacobs' 7-yard run, Edwards turned cornerback Aaron Ross around with a nice outside fake and hauled in a 70-yard pass from Anderson to set up Cleveland's first TD, a 4-yard run by Lewis.

On the Browns' next possession, Anderson put together his best-looking drive of the season. Given time to throw, he made all the correct reads and went 5-for-5 for 74 yards, threading a 22-yard TD pass over the middle to backup tight end Darnell Dinkins to give Cleveland a 17-7 halftime lead.

Manning countered with an 80-yard scoring drive—helped by a critical Cleveland penalty—to pull the Giants within 17-14. From the 3, he lofted a perfect TD pass to Burress, who easily ran past defensive back Terry Cousin. Three plays earlier, Manning had been sacked and fumbled on third down, but Browns safety Mike Adams was called for illegal contact, giving New York a first down.

Browns defensive end Corey Williams had provided the Giants with some bulletin-board material leading into the game. Williams, who was with Green Bay last season and lost to New York in the NFC title game, had said Cleveland's defense planned to "hit him (Jacobs) in the mouth" and that "their ain't nothing physical" about the Giants' offensive line.

Williams also said he was going to try to knock Jacobs' head off, remarks that were prominently displayed on the back pages of New York's tabloid newspapers.

After Jacobs barreled through several Cleveland defenders for his TD early in the second quarter, he jawed with Williams.

It was the Browns, though, who got the last word.

Cowboys' Romo has broken finger, may miss four weeks

IRVING, Texas (AP)—The already slumping Dallas Cowboys now must survive a few games without two-time Pro Bowl quarterback Tony Romo, who has a broken finger on his throwing hand.

There was indeed something wrong when Romo badly missed on his last two pass attempts to Terrell Owens in a 30-24 overtime loss at Arizona on Sunday, the Cowboys' second defeat in three games. Coach Wade Phillips said Monday that Romo broke his right pinkie on the first play of OT.

Brad Johnson, the 40-year-old backup whose last start was in 2006 for Minnesota, takes over Sunday when Dallas plays at St. Louis.

"Obviously, it's unfortunate for Tony to have to go through something like this. He'll recover quick; he has a great attitude about it," Johnson said. "At this time, it's really just important for the offense especially to just kind of catch on to my snap count and the way we manage the huddle. ... I'm excited about the opportunity, worked hard to get here."

Johnson, who came to Dallas last year, won a Super Bowl with Tampa Bay during the 2002 season and is the only Cowboys player with a championship ring.

Phillips said Romo won't need surgery, and the timing of his return "depends on how fast that heals." The Cowboys have three games before an open date Nov. 9.

Romo wasn't in the locker room Monday when it was open to reporters, but Johnson described Romo as being in good spirits.

The Cowboys scored 10 points in the final 2 minutes of regulation Sunday. They got the ball to open overtime, but Romo fumbled and had two incompletions. He started flexing his hand after recovering his fumble.

Then Arizona blocked the punt and recovered it for a game-ending touchdown - a play that also cost Dallas its punter, Mat McBriar.

McBriar was carted off the field, and an MRI on Monday showed he has a broken foot. He could be out two months, so the team will have to sign another punter.

The losses of Romo and McBriar added to an already trying time for the Cowboys, who before Arizona had a lackluster victory over winless Cincinnati and were beaten at home by NFC East rival Washington.

Romo's importance to the team could be seen in the stunned look on linebacker Greg Ellis' face when he heard about Romo's broken finger before a team meeting. "Wow!" Ellis exclaimed.

"Am I optimistic that we can win without Tony? Yes, truly I am," said Ellis, in his 11th season with the Cowboys—longer than anyone else. "I'm just disappointed in this organization right now, from the whole deal of it. Things just aren't going really good.

"We're not maximizing what we have. I don't say that to start controversy. I pray that the guys who hear me say this—the coaches on the staff, everybody—realize that I just feel like we can do better as a unit, as a whole Dallas Cowboys organization."

The Cowboys, with Ellis among 13 Pro Bowlers returning from last year's 13-win team, came into the season with Super Bowl expectations. But they are tied with the Redskins for second place in the NFC East. After St. Louis, they play division leaders Tampa Bay and the New York Giants before going to Washington.

Romo passed for 321 yards and three touchdowns against Arizona despite heavy pressure. He was sacked three times and knocked down 19 times, though he didn't throw an interception for the first time in nine games. He couldn't grip the ball once he injured his finger, and his hand was heavily wrapped after the game.

"Obviously, he had trouble throwing the ball that last series," Phillips said. "He probably should have gone out of the game."

Owens refused comment Monday, getting agitated when he saw cameras recording him. "Today is not Wednesday," he said, referring to the day he routinely talks to reporters.

Through Sunday's games, Romo ranked second in NFC passing with a 103.5 rating. He broke Troy Aikman's team record with his 14th career 300-yard passing game Sunday in his 32nd start. Aikman's 13 came in 165 starts.

In 2007, his first full season as a starter, Romo led the Cowboys to an NFC-best 13-3 record, but Dallas was upset by the Giants in the playoffs. He set team records with 335 completions for 4,211 yards and 36 touchdowns.

It was two years ago this month that Romo replaced Drew Bledsoe as the starter.

While Romo is a scrambler with a strong arm, Johnson's style is almost the complete opposite. Still, Johnson doesn't expect the team's offensive approach to change much.

"We're not going to change the names of the plays. The system is already in place," Johnson said.

Johnson said the team would still run "about 90 percent" of the plays it did with Romo.

"Obviously, we have to change some things," Phillips said. "No. 1, we want to protect the passer better, no matter who is back there."

Before coming to Dallas, Johnson started 122 of his 145 career games with Minnesota (1993-98, 2005-06), Washington (1999-2000) and Tampa Bay (2001-04). He's attempted 11 passes with the Cowboys, all in last year's regular season finale.

Johnson has completed 61.8 percent of his passes in his career for 28,627 yards with 164 touchdowns and 117 interceptions. He passed for 2,750 yards in 2006 with nine TDs and 15 interceptions.

Another former Viking, Brooks Bollinger, will be Johnson's backup.

Romo and McBriar weren't the only Cowboys hurt in Arizona. Wide receiver Sam Hurd will need surgery after he reinjured his left ankle, while rookie running back Felix Jones and linebacker Anthony Spencer have strained hamstrings.

Dumapit leads 'Rumble' bowling tournament

BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Raul Dumapit needed no strikes, just consistency to take the lead in the first round of the Saipan Bowling Association's Rumble 7-8-9 Bowling Tournament Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Dumapit carded a total of 827 pinfalls in three games for a 42-pinfall lead over Alex Cacdac, who recorded 795 pinfalls.

Sunday's tournament, which drew 19 participants, is a fundraiser with proceeds going to the Saipan delegation which will be competing in the Intercity Bowling Championships in Macau, China from Nov. 28 to Dec. 6.

The unique tournament gives a bowler a strike if he downs seven balls in Game 1, eight in Game 2 and nine in Game 3.

Dumapit failed to record a strike, but was consistent in Games 1 and 2, knocking down 268 and 263 pins. He saved the best for last with his 296 pinfalls in Game 3.

Cacdac had a perfect game in Game 1 and remained in contention for the No. 1 spot in Game 2 with his 277 pinfalls. But he muffed his bid for the lead, when he scored only 218 pinfalls in Game 3.

Three other players made a perfect game. The list include youth bowler Raphael Zapanta (Game 2), Raymond Angeles (Game 1), and Marge Mendiola (Game 1).

Zapanta started slow with 220 pinfalls in Game 1 and close out with 264 pinfalls in Game 3 to finish third with a total of 784 pinfalls.

Completing the Top 5 were Diana Chong (752) and Angeles (716).

Angeles faltered in the last two games after a perfect start. He scored 206 in Game 2 and 210 in Game 3. Chong had a good start with 275 pinfals, but like Angeles, she slowed down in the last two games, making 253 and 224 pinfalls, in Games 2 and 3, respectively.

Making it to the Top 10 were Elena Soll (692), Yho Villavicencio (683), Roman Antonio (633), Marion McKenzie (621), and Mendiola (621).

Other bowlers who competed in the first round were Carol McKenzie (619), Ralph Torres (602), Toti Limpin (568), Jonah Delos Reyes (540), Troy Verdaguer (534), Kevin Royal (509), Tom McKenzie (481), Jacob Delos Reyes (457), and Marcel McKenzie (369).

The second round will be played this Sunday and if Dumapit's score is unbeaten, he gets to keep the championship and the guaranteed cash prize of $300.

Other prizes include a bowling bag from Marpac and Budweiser and gift certificates. The bowling bag will go to the bowler with the most perfect games.

Gift certificates from Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Saipan Grand Hotel, chair from Marpac/Budweiser, a 50-lb sack of rice, Sony DVD Player, and a 13" Sylvana Color TV will be given as raffle prizes.

Organizers would like to thank SBC, Fiesta Resort, SGH, D&Q, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., and Eli Arago for donating prizes for the fundraiser.

For more information on the tournament, contact Ross or Gigi Zapanta at 288-5627 or via email at zapanta@pticom.com.

Govt softball league meeting today

Organizers of the Inter-Government Softball League are calling on team representatives to attend a meeting today at 10am at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Joey Dela Cruz of the Division of Sports and Recreation said it is important for team representatives/coaches to attend the meeting as they will be discussing the league format, rules, and other details of the league today.

Dela Cruz added that the deadline for the submission of entrance fee is set for Oct. 22. Teams are also asked to submit their rosters and attend the last meeting next week.

Organizers are still finalizing the opening date of the league, which drew 19 teams last season.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is this year's defending champion in both the men's and women's divisions.

DCCA ruled the men's division after whipping Aguaguat in the deciding Game 3, 43-11. DCCA was also the pennant champion last year, finishing the regular season with an unbeaten 18-0 record.

DCCA completed its domination of the league, sweeping Northern Marianas College in the best-of-three title series in the women's division.

For more information, contact Dela Cruz at 664-2502 or 287-6509. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

JunJun Cabatu lifts Gin Kings; Realtors win

MANILA, Philippines—This Cabatu certainly has a different ability than the one who played for Barangay Ginebra before.

Jun Jun Cabatu, the son of the former Ginebra center who had some forgettable endgame blunders in his career, hit three clutch triples in the fourth quarter Sunday night to lead the Gin Kings past Air21, 101-92, and into a share of the early KFC-PBA Philippine Cup lead.

The 6-foot-4 24-year-old, who was the last to earn a spot on the Ginebra roster, finished with 23 markers in a performance that made up for the absence of some key Kings.

"What can I say," coach Jong Uichico later said at the Araneta Coliseum press room. "You don't know how you win games. I think we're really playing as a team and not concentrating on having one person do the scoring."

Earlier, Kelly Williams scored 12 points in the third period and Nelbert Omolon 15 in the fourth to lead a big second half that lifted Sta. Lucia Realty past title favorite Talk 'N Text, 117-96.

Williams, last season's MVP, also hit nine points in the fourth and Omolon tossed in 24 in the final two quarters as the defending champion Realtors improved to 1-1 and became the first team to bring down the Texters.

Sonny Cabatu won a title with Ginebra during the Robert Jaworski era and had a career-high of 25 points. But he a never was go-to-guy like his son was Sunday night as Jun-Jun delivered the killer blows that sealed the Express' third straight loss.

Ranidel de Ocampo shoved the Express ahead for the last time in the seesaw game with a triple with 4:02 left, before the Kings hit 11 unanswered points built around two Cabatu triples and another from Ronald Tubid.

Jun-Jun also had six rebounds, five assists and two steals in a performance that will surely be considered once his contract runs out.

Jay-Jay Helterbrand scored 21 points and Junthy Valenzuela was reactivated from the injured list to scatter 14 as the Kings hardly showed signs of missing leading scorer Mark Caguioa and Eric Menk.

PBA

First Game

Sta. Lucia 117 – Williams 25, Omolon 24, Yeo 18, Gonzales 14, Reyes 13, Miranda 11, Espino 8, Daa 2, Aquino 2, Gregorio 0, Mendoza 0.

Talk 'N Text 96 – Cardona 19, Castro 14, Alapag 14, Dillnger 11, Carey 10, Allado 10, Ritualo 8, De Ocampo 8, Aljamal 2, Reyes 0, Lao 0.

Scoring by Quarters: 18-14, 36-37, 75-67, 117-96.

Second Game

Ginebra 101 – Cabatu 23, Helterbrand 21, Valenzuela 14, Tubid 13, Artadi 11, Wilson 6, Crisano 6, Pacana 4, Holper 2, Escalona 1, Salvacion 0.

Air21 92 – Santos 19, De Ocampo 15, Arboleda 12, David 11, Se 10, Quinahan 8, Billones 7, Intal 4, Cruz 3, Canaleta 3, Kramer 0.

Scoring by Quarters: 22-20, 41-46, 76-77, 101-92. ***(PDI)***

TINIAN

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0-4 records.

Exhibition singles matches were held after the regular tournament with Sumio Yamamoto thumping Luke Lu, 3-0. Yamamoto also played against Ma with the former winning anew, 3-2.

Prior to the Marianas Cup, MATTA through the help of Tinian hosted the Large Ball Ping-Pong Tournament Friday with Saipan and Tinian players challenging 12 Japanese visitors.

Japan had four squads for the team event with the Yamamoto-led Japan 2 winning the team competition with a 5-0 record. Other members of the winning team were Hisamitsu Hamamoto and Kimiko Koike.

Asian Games gold medalist Hiroyuki Abe led Japan 1 to a second-place finish with their 4-1 slate. Abe teamed up with Mitsuko Yamaguchi and Terumi Morino.

Saipan was represented by Gurung, Shi, and Su Yong and finished third, followed by Mixed, Japan 3, and Japan 4.

Japan 3 was composed of Masuyuki and Yasuk Murai and Kyoko Akita, while members of team Japan 4 were Takashi Sawada, Kimiko Konishi, and Junko Kanemura.

The Mixed squad had Charlie Cheng, Lim, and Xu Ming.

The pair of Koike and Sumio Yamamoto had a clean 9-0 record to finish on top of the field in the doubles event.

Abe and Akita finished second with an 8-1 record, followed by Gurung and Su Yong (7-2), Yamaguchi and Hisamitsu Hamamoto (6-3), Shi and Xu Ming (5-4), Kanemura and Ma (4-5), Morino and Cheng (36), the Murais (2-7), Liang Wei and Bright Fu Liang (2-7), and Sawada and Lim (0-9).

Medals were awarded to the top three placers only in the team division of the Large Ball. Marianas Cup Top 3 finishers in the singles and doubles divisions also received medals.

BORJA

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league early," the new SLLB president said

Borja is calling on coaches/managers of interested teams to attend a meeting this Saturday at 10am at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room.

Borja said if they start the league on January as planned, they are hoping to conclude the season mid-May and proceed with the CNMI District Tournament early June.

Saipan will be hosting the district meet.

Hong Kong will be hosting the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament late June, while the Majors qualifier will be held in Hong Kong.

Teams which will top the regional meet will compete in the World Series.

Last year, Saipan dominated the district meet, but only the Big League All-Stars made it to the World Series in Easley, South Carolina. The CNMI Big Leaguers were winless in last year's Little League World Series.

For more information on SLLB, contact Borja at 322-0340 or 285-1980.

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participants.

Out to share their expertise on the pool were Bobby and Tami Winkfield, Stan Good, Mike Villagomez, Rezne Wong, Shin, Hiro, and Kensuke Kimura, Cooper Graf, Kai Staal, Val Welch, Amanda Johnson, Karen Buettner, Marystar Welch, Annie Camacho, Mina Minami, and Thea Minor. The assistant coaches were Kiana Villagomez, and Ashley and Salofi Welch.

Eight water safety instructors and four lifesaver-certified swimmers from American Red Cross joined Tsunami Saipan in providing valuable lessons to participants.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said they saw several participants who have potentials to join competitive swimming.

"Some parents told us their kids are interested in joining Tsunami Saipan and learning competitive swimming. We welcome these new swimmers and we will see if they will continue to improve and become part of the our team," Hiro said.

Good, president of Tsunami Saipan, thanked Fiesta Resort for allowing them and the American Red Cross to use its pool for free.

"We would like to give a special thanks to the management and staff of the Fiesta Resort. Without their support, none of the American Red Cross lessons would be possible," Good said.

"They have generously allowed us to use their hotel pool, which is centrally located in Garapan. This location enables many participants to join the lessons. In addition, they have not charged us or the Red Cross for the use of the pool. This added bonus allows the team to make some needed money for our operations and provide payment to Red Cross for the use of their materials," he added.

Good said Tsunami Saipan will use the big portion of the funds raised from the registration fee for purchase of equipment, off-island competitions, and monthly fees at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The Tsunami Saipan president said they will be conducting another swim lesson before the year ends, as they aim to bring their swimmers closer to the community, especially to aspiring kid swimmers

"Tsunami Saipan-Red Cross lessons made our swimmers interact with the public and helped them become normal persons. Rezne Wong is known as one of the best swimmers on Saipan, but when he teaches a group of kids they see him as a normal person interested in helping them," Good said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	126	104
New England	3	2	0	.600	89	109
N.Y. Jets	3	2	0	.600	141	130
Miami	2	3	0	.400	107	103
South						
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000	115	56
Indianapolis	3	2	0	.600	114	97
Jacksonville	3	3	0	.500	124	128
Houston	1	4	0	.200	112	158
North						
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	103	79
Baltimore	2	3	0	.400	78	87
Cleveland	2	3	0	.400	81	92
Cincinnati	0	6	0	.000	88	144
West						
Denver	4	2	0	.667	166	154
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	178	139
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	81	135
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200	65	131

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
N.Y. Giants	4	1	0	.800	141	117
Washington	4	2	0	.667	126	117
Dallas	4	2	0	.667	175	141
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	167	123
South						
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	141	97
Carolina	4	2	0	.667	117	97
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	139	127
New Orleans	3	3	0	.500	172	133
North						
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	160	145
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	148	109
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	113	119
Detroit	0	5	0	.000	76	159
West						
Arizona	4	2	0	.667	177	144
San Francisco	2	4	0	.333	141	167
Seattle	1	4	0	.200	100	151
St. Louis	1	4	0	.200	62	164

Yesterday's Game
Cleveland 35, N.Y. Giants 14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tsunami Saipan-ARC Lessons

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Above, former CNMI national swimmer Amanda Johnson shares tips with participants.

Above right, Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good explains techniques to participants.

Right, Tsunami Saipan's Tamiko Winkfield teaches a kid to float during the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan-American Red Cross NMI Chapter swimming lessons at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last week.

Far right, Karen Buettner enjoys a chat with a participant.

Tsunami Saipan ace swimmer Rezne Wong, left, poses with a participant at the conclusion of the swim lessons Saturday.

Above center, NMASA Hall of Fame swimmer Michael Villagomez gives instructions to participants before plunging into the pool.

Above, Tsunami Saipan swimmers, who acted as coaches in the weekend swim lessons, mingle with participants.

Left, Thea Minor, left, and Ashley Welch prepare to start the swim lesson.

Dumapit leads 'Rumble' bowling tournament
Raul Dumapit needed no strikes, just consistency to take the lead in the first round of the Saipan Bowling Association's Rumble 7-8-9 Bowling Tournament Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.
26

Victorino, Stairs lift Phillies over Dodgers
Shane Victorino and the Philadelphia Phillies struck back with long balls rather than beanballs to move within one win of the World Series.
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Tinian tops Marianas Friendship Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian ruled the 10th Marianas Friendship Cup held over the weekend at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Mark Ma anchored Tinian's triumph in the annual tournament, which featured singles and doubles competitions.

Ma won the singles event beating fellow Tinian player Luke Lu in the tiebreak. Both Tinian players finished the round-robin singles with perfect 5-0 records.

Another Tinian player, Charlie Cheng, settled for third defeating Saipan's Su Yong Dong and Jean Shi in the tiebreak. All three players recorded identical 3-2 records. Su Yong was relegated to fourth, while Shi placed fifth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the 10th Marianas Friendship Cup and the Large Ball Ping-Pong Tournament held over the weekend at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino pose for a group photo before the start of the competition.

Making it to the Top 10 were Liang Wei Bin (2-3), Robin Lu (2-3), Budhi Gurung (1-4), Guam's Hisamitsu Hamamoto (1-4), and Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association president Steven Lim (0-5).

Ma teamed up with Liang Wei in the doubles event and finished with a clean 4-0 record to beat four other pairs.

Robin and Luke Lu had a 3-1 slate to place second, while Gurung and Charlie Cheng ended in third placed with a 2-2 record.

Jean and Su Yong and the tandem of Lim and Xu Ming Tian were in fourth and fifth places, respectively, with their 1-3 and

See TINIAN on Page 26

San Mig caging pays tribute to Alegre

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League honored the late Rick Alegre during the competition's opening ceremony Sunday at the CIC Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Alegre died early this year due to cardiac arrest. He was playing for Aqua Resort Club in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium when he had a heart attack during a break in their game against Hyatt.

He was 39.

San Miguel league organizer and longtime Samahang Ilokano and Pangasinense teammate Fando Muleta said they dedicated the inaugural caging to Alegre, who played in various leagues and tournaments on Saipan and made his marks in the CNMI basketball.

"He was a team player, a very good motivator to his teammates and even his foes, and a leader," Muleta said.

"If that fateful incident did not happen, he would have been playing in our inaugural league or he would have help us running this league, Muleta added.

The Pilipino Contract Workers Association, Inc. awarded a plaque of recognition and a ball to Rick's son—Ric-Ric—to express its appreciation to the former national player.

Besides playing for Filipino-organized leagues, Alegre suited up for the CNMI National Team in the 2002 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei and the 2003 Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Koror, Palau.

He won numerous championships with SIP and Keeraku. His last championship was with Rock Steady in the 2007 BANMI Budweiser Cup, helping his team beat the Saipan Stevedore Suns in the finals, 92-78.

Meanwhile, Muleta said the San Miguel caging will be holding only one game every Thursday and two matches on Saturdays and Sundays.

Game time every Thursday will start at 6:30pm, while Sundays and Saturdays matches will begin at 5pm.

Seven teams are competing for the championship in the inaugural caging, namely Century Insurance, AON Insurance, C&R Distributors, Diamond Auto Care, MIGS, Olivos, and Pacific Trading Corporation.

AON and MIGS won in Sunday's opener, downing Century Insurance, 103-87, and PTC, 114-77, respectively.

The seven participating squads will be playing in a single-round robin regular season with the No. 1 team automatically advancing to the semifinals. The rest of the field will battle for the last three semis tickets.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Pilipino Contract Workers Association, Inc. officials pay tribute to the late Rick Alegre during the opening ceremony of the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Sunday at the CIC Center Basketball Court in Garapan. Receiving the plaque of recognition and a ball was Rick's son, Ric-Ric, second left.

Borja is new SLLB president

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Little League Baseball has a new president in Mike Borja who was elected to the highest position in SLLB last week.

Borja is replacing outgoing president Juan I. Tenorio.

Borja

Other officers elected were Ben Taitano, vice president; Annie Flores, treasurer; Rose Igitol, secretary; Tony Rogolifoi and Roque Celis, statisticians; Ben Manalo, safety officer; and Walter Macaranas, players agent.

Borja, who served as vice president of the SLLB in the past several years, said he is excited to buckle down to work for the opening of the 2009 season.

He added that they will open the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball early, as the district and regional tournaments are also moved to an earlier date.

"We're looking to start the league in January, as besides the early schedule for the district and regional tournaments, we are also expecting more teams to join the league this year. The earlier we start, the better for our players who will then prepare for the district and regional meets," Borja said.

The 2009 SLLB season is set to open tentatively on Jan. 10.

The SaipanCell Patriots are the defending champions in the Majors and will gun for their fourth title in a row. Three other teams will aim to defend their titles, namely the Kagman Lion Hearts (Junior League), Jets (Senior League), and Tanapag Falcons (Big League).

Borja said at least five more teams are interested in joining the Majors, which had 15 teams last year. Several new squads are also planning to compete in the Juniors, Seniors, and Big League.

"We would like to accommodate as many teams as possible that's why we want to start the

See BORJA on Page 26

55 complete Tsunami Saipan-ARC lessons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fifty-five received certification from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and American Red Cross, NMI Chapter after completing the five weekend swim lessons at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The five sessions of the swim lessons concluded Saturday and focused on the basics of swimming and safety on the water. Tsunami Saipan had 17 coaches and three assistants attending to

See 55 on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers and coaches join participants of the swim lessons conducted by Tsunami Saipan and the American Red Cross, NMI Chapter in a group photo at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan swimming pool.